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NO 104
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GIRLS' LOVE
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THE MOMENT I WOKE UP THAT MORNING I HAD A PREMONITION THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. IT WAS STILL DARK OUTSIDE -- SO DARK -- I SHIVERED WITH A FEAR I COULDN'T NAME. HOW COULD I KNOW I WAS TREMBLING FROM

the Dark in my Heart!

I--I'M SO C-COLD-- SO AFRAID--OF SOMETHING! OH STEVE, DARLING-- IF ONLY YOU WERE HERE NOW--TO HOLD ME IN YOUR ARMS--AND MAKE ME FEEL SAFE AND WARM!

IT HAD RAINED THE WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH--THE WORLD WAS DROWNED WITH ITS WEEPING--

ITS- MY HEART THAT'S CRYING!

--AND I DON'T KNOW WHY--I DON'T- KNOW-- WHY--!

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GIRLS' LOVE STORIES No. 104 July 1964 Published monthly with the exception of March, June, Sept. and Dec. by ARLEIGH PUBLISHING CORPORATION, 2nd & Dickey Sts., SPARTA, ILL. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 75 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N.Y. Jack Miller Editor. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3 1879. Yearly subscription in the U.S., 75c including postage. Foreign $1.90 in American funds. Canada $1.15 in American funds. Copyright 1964 by Arleigh Publishing Corporation. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

Printed in U.S.A.

RAIN HAD ALWAYS BROUGHT ME HAPPINESS--RAIN HAD BROUGHT ME STEVE! I REMEMBER THE DAY I MET HIM--AT THE BASEBALL GAME BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY AND THE CRYSTAL CITY TEAMS

BLAST ER OUT OF THE PARK, STEVIE, BOY!

COME ON BOY!

BUT SUDDENLY - LIKE A MAMMOTH ROCKET OUT OF THE SKY

EVERYONE WAS RUNNING FOR THEIR CARS - BUT I HAD WALKED ALONE TO THE BASEBALL PARK. I WAS IN FOR A DRENCHING - UNTIL

COME ON! THAT DRESS IS TOO PRETTY TO SPOIL

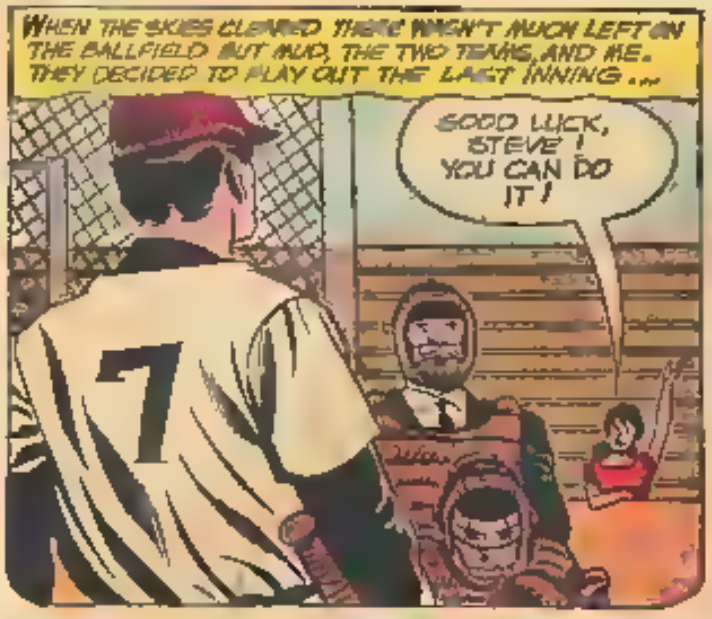
HE PULLED ME TO SHELTER UNDER THE BLEACHERS...

LOOKS LIKE A REAL CLOUDBURST! WE CAN STAY DRY UNDER HERE!

IT WAS HIS SMILE AND HIS EYES THAT SHELTERED ME MOST...

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND WAITING IT OUT WITH ME!

I--I DON'T MIND IN THE LEAST


WHEN THE SKIES CLEARED THERE WASN'T MUCH LEFT ON THE BALLFIELD BUT MUD, THE TWO TEAMS, AND ME. THEY DECIDED TO PLAY OUT THE LAST INNING...
GOOD LUCK, STEVE! YOU CAN DO IT!
7

STEVE'S TEAM WAS BEHIND—EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON HIM. HE MUST HAVE HEARD MY HEART WHISPERING TO HIM...
DO IT FOR ME, STEVE!

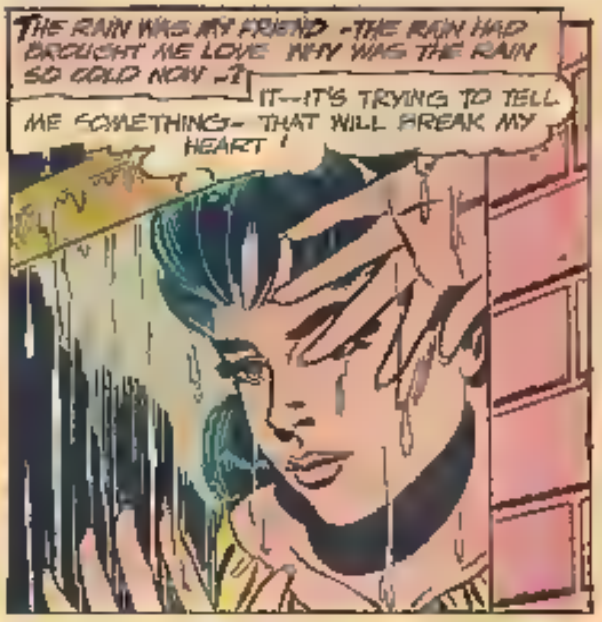
HE SLAMMED A LONG DRIVE INTO CENTER FIELD...
KRAK!

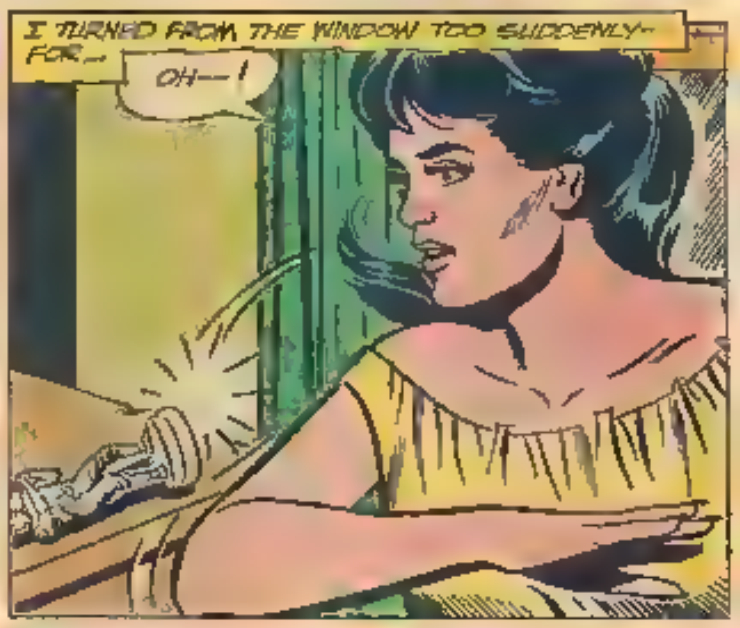
...AND CAME HOME IN A BLAZE OF MUD AND GLORY!
SAFE!

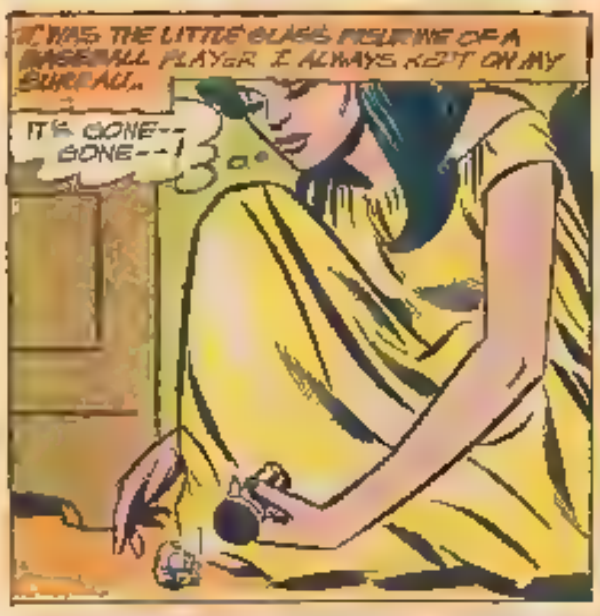
HE WAS THE HERO OF THE DAY—MY HERO...
HEY WHAT ABOUT THAT PRETTY DRESS!
WHAT ABOUT IT?!
1
4

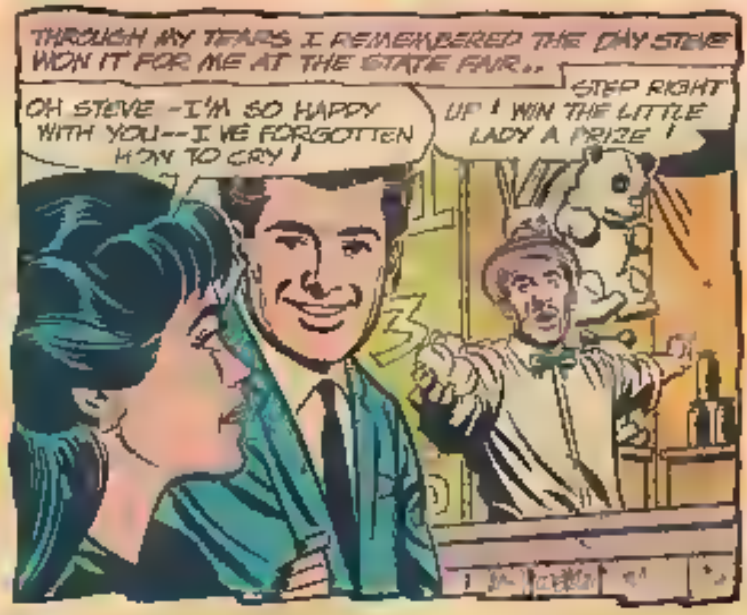
AND WHENEVER HE HELD ME CLOSE AFTER THAT—SO CLOSE I COULD FEEL HIS HEART BEATING...
WHAT ABOUT THAT PRETTY DRESS?

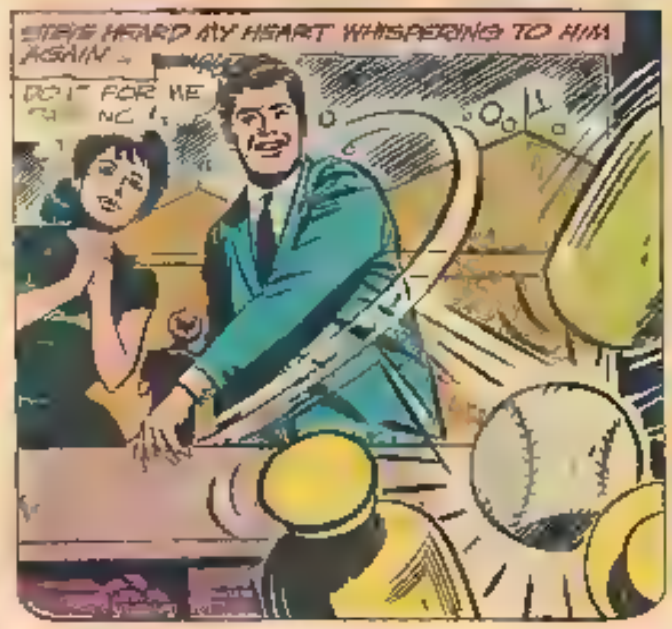
WHAT ABOUT IT?!


THE RAIN WAS MY FRIEND -THE RAIN HAD BROUGHT ME LOVE WHY WAS THE RAIN SO COLD NOW -?
IT--IT'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING- THAT WILL BREAK MY HEART!


I TURNED FROM THE WINDOW TOO SUDDENLY- FOR...
OH--!


IT WAS THE LITTLE GLASS FIGURINE OF A BASEBALL PLAYER I ALWAYS KEPT ON MY BUREAU..
IT'S GONE-- GONE--!


THROUGH MY TEARS I REMEMBERED THE DAY STEVE WON IT FOR ME AT THE STATE FAIR..
OH STEVE -I'M SO HAPPY WITH YOU--I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO CRY!
STEP RIGHT UP! WIN THE LITTLE LADY A PRIZE!


STEVE HEARD MY HEART WHISPERING TO HIM AGAIN..
DO IT FOR ME

I COULD HAVE HAD THE BIGGEST PRIZE THERE- BUT I CHOSE THE LITTLE GLASS FIGURINE OF THE BASEBALL PLAYER...
I'LL KEEP IT ALWAYS AS MY GOOD LUCK CHARM! IT WILL BE LIKE HAVING YOU WITH ME ALL THE TIME!

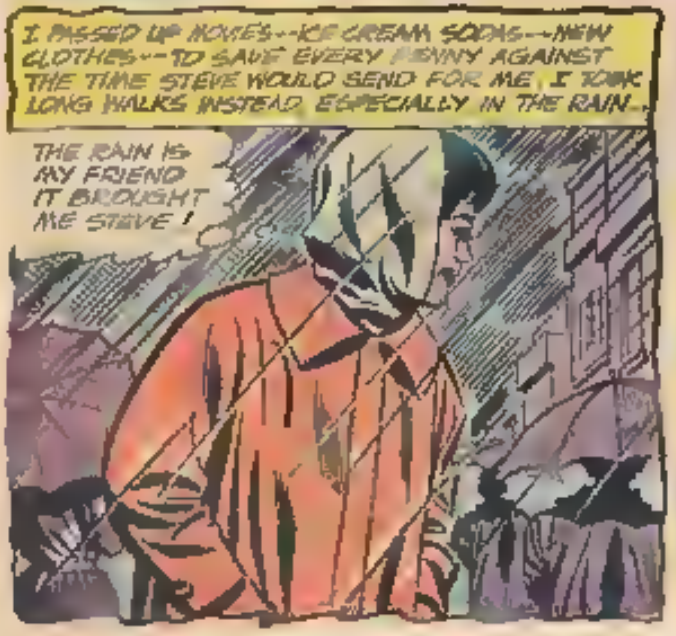
STEVE WENT UP FAST IN BASEBALL AROUND OUR PARTS. I KNEW HOW GREAT HE WAS--IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE WORLD TO FIND OUT THE SAME THING.
THAT YOUR FELLOW UP AT BAT, MISS?
YOU BET HE IS!

YOU BETTER GET READY TO FOLLOW HIM THEN--HE'S GOING PLACES!

THE STRANGER WAS A SCOUT FOR A BIG LEAGUE TEAM...
HE'S SENDING ME TO A SPRING TRAINING CAMP! IT'S MY BIG CHANCE, HONEY!

I WANTED THE BEST FOR STEVE--I WANTED THE BEST FOR MYSELF...
THAT'S YOU, STEVE--YOU'RE THE BEST! OH, BUT I'M GOING TO MISS YOU--TERRIBLY!
I'LL SEND FOR YOU AS SOON AS I CAN SWEETHEART! I'LL MAKE GOOD, YOU'LL SEE!

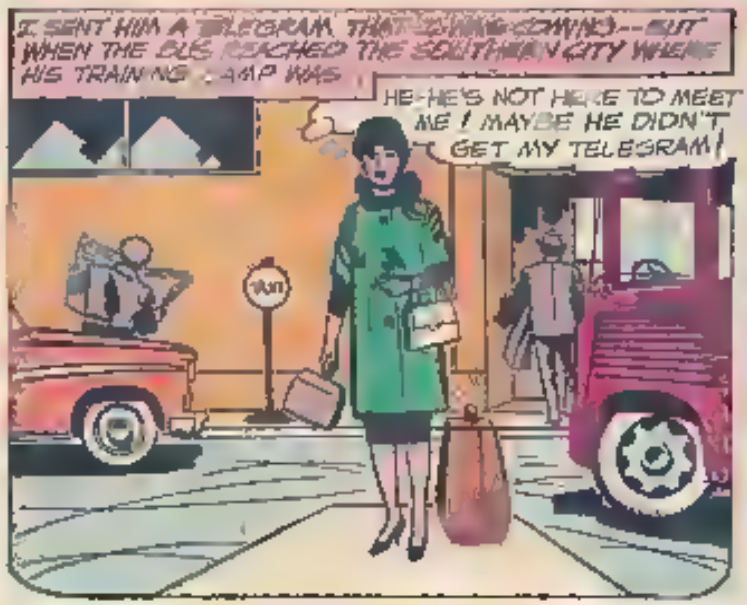
I LIVED FOR STEVE'S LETTERS. THEY DIDN'T COME AS OFTEN AS I'D HAVE LIKED, BUT I MADE UP FOR IT BY WRITING ONCE--SOMETIMES TWICE--A DAY
"...I know how busy and tired you must be, darling! If only we could be together..."

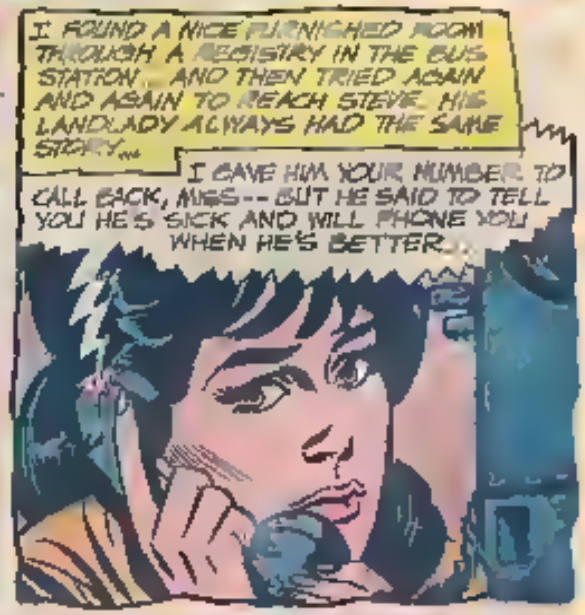

I PASSED UP MOVIES--ICE CREAM SODAS--NEW CLOTHES--TO SAVE EVERY PENNY AGAINST THE TIME STEVE WOULD SEND FOR ME. I TOOK LONG WALKS INSTEAD, ESPECIALLY IN THE RAIN...
THE RAIN IS MY FRIEND. IT BROUGHT ME STEVE!

BUT NOW I WAS AFRAID OF THE RAIN AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHY...
I--I'VE GOT TO GO OUT AND WALK IN IT! M-MAYBE I'LL FEEL BETTER!

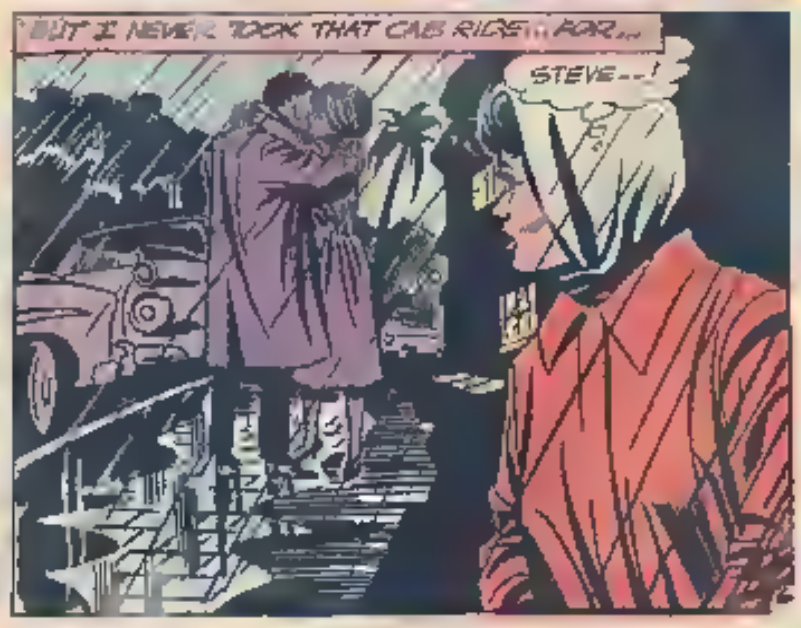
BUT I COULDN'T SHAKE MY FEAR...
IF--IF ONLY STEVE WERE HERE--WALKING BESIDE ME--!

MAYBE THE FEAR HAD BEEN WITH ME LONGER THAN I THOUGHT. MAYBE IT STARTED WHEN STEVE'S LETTERS STOPPED COMING ALTOGETHER.
IF HE'S TOO BUSY TO WRITE, I'LL FIX IT SO HE WON'T HAVE TO! I'LL GO THERE!


I SENT HIM A TELEGRAM THAT I'M COMING--BUT WHEN THE BUS REACHED THE SOUTHERN CITY WHERE HIS TRAINING CAMP WAS...
HE-HE'S NOT HERE TO MEET ME! MAYBE HE DIDN'T GET MY TELEGRAM!


I FOUND A NICE FURNISHED ROOM THROUGH A REGISTRY IN THE BUS STATION... AND THEN TRIED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO REACH STEVE. HIS LANDLADY ALWAYS HAD THE SAME STORY...
I GAVE HIM YOUR NUMBER TO CALL BACK, MRS--BUT HE SAID TO TELL YOU HE'S SICK AND WILL PHONE YOU WHEN HE'S BETTER...

AS I WALKED, I KEPT TELLING MYSELF EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT--THE RAIN WAS WRONG--STEVE WOULD CALL ME SOON...
BETTER THAN THAT--I'LL TAKE A CAB TO HIS ROOMING HOUSE AND VISIT HIM--!

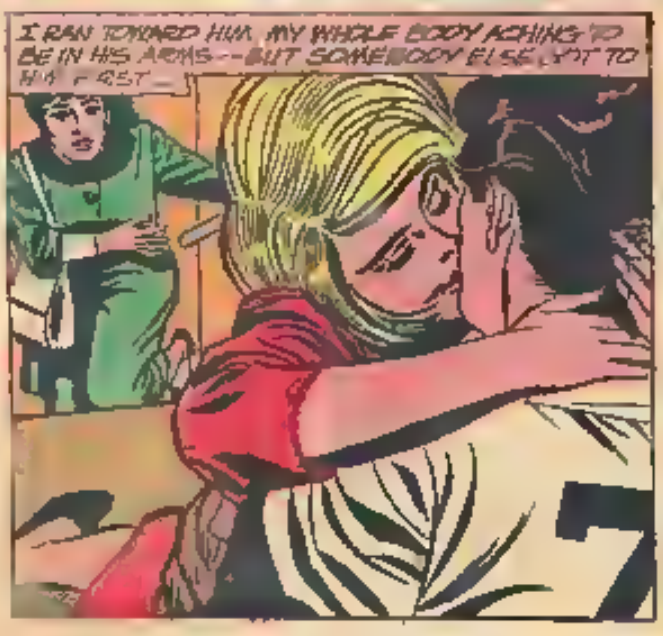

BUT I NEVER TOOK THAT CAB RIDE... FOR...
STEVE--!

THE NEXT INSTANT THEY HAD FADED INTO THE RAIN--AND I BEGAN TO DOUBT MY OWN SENSES...
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN STEVE! I--I WAS MISTAKEN IN ALL THIS RAIN!

EY-EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT--IT'S G-GOT TO BE--! H-HE LOST MY NUMBER--HE'S STILL ILL--HE STILL LOVES ME--ONLY ME--!

IT WAS BRIGHT AND SHINY WHEN I CAME DOWN STAIRS THE NEXT DAY...
THERE'S AN EXHIBITION GAME TODAY, DEAR! WHY DON'T YOU GO? MAYBE YOU'LL FIND YOUR YOUNG MAN THERE!
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, MRS. CLAYBURNE. I--I'LL SURPRISE HIM!

MY HEART LEAPT HIGH AS A RAINBOW IN THE SKY AT FIRST SIGHT OF STEVE! HE WAS SO WONDERFUL...
I--I'LL GO UP TO HIM AFTER THE GAME--AND HE'LL TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS!


I RAN TOWARD HIM, MY WHOLE BODY ACHING TO BE IN HIS ARMS--BUT SOMEBODY ELSE GOT TO HIM FIRST...

IF STEVE CALLED MY NAME, I NEVER HEARD IT... IF HE TOUCHED MY ARM, I NEVER FELT IT... IF I WAS ALIVE, I NEVER KNEW IT...
JOAN--PLEASE UNDERSTAND...
L-LEAVE ME ALONE--JUST--LEAVE--ME--ALONE--!

I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GET BACK HOME. I TOOK A JOB - ANY JOB - TO SAVE MYSELF THROUGH WHEN STEVE CAME IN ONE DAY I GOT ONE OF THE OTHER GIRLS TO TAKE HIS TABLE...

I WANT TO HATE HIM... BUT HOW CAN I HATE HIM WITH A HEART THAT'S DEAD...

HE TRIED SEVERAL TIMES TO PHONE ME, BUT I DIDN'T WANT HIS PITY. MY LANDLADY HAD HER INSTRUCTIONS...

NO MR. MARTIN - MISS GILBERT IS NOT IN - AND PLEASE DON'T CALL AGAIN!

I TRIED NOT TO THINK ABOUT STEVE -- BUT SOMETIMES I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING MY CUSTOMERS... I WAS SHOCKED...

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? NOT A HIT FROM MARTIN IN WEEKS! A FLASH IN THE PAN!

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR -- HAH! FLOP OF THE YEAR IS MORE LIKE IT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MADE ME GO TO THAT GAME. I GUESS I HAD TO SEE FOR MYSELF...

I - I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT STEVE! HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE GREATEST!

THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE CROWD... YOU COULD FEEL IT IN THE AIR. WHEN STEVE CAME UP TO BAT... STEVE MUST HAVE FELT IT TOO, AS AGAIN AND AGAIN HE STRUCK OUT...

TH-THEY'RE AGAINST HIM!

AND THEN THERE WAS THAT TERRIBLE FUMBLE IN THE OUTFIELD -- WHEN STEVE LOST THE CRUCIAL CATCH OF THE GAME...

350 FT.

THEY TURNED ON HIM LIKE SPECTATORS IN AN ANCIENT ARENA—CRYING FOR THE KILL—AND WATCHING STEVE WAS LIKE WATCHING A MAN DIE..

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I SAT THERE—OR WHEN THE RAIN BEGAN ALL I COULD DO WAS CRY FOR HIM..

POOR STEVE.. POOR DARLING!

THROUGH MY TEARS... THROUGH THE RAIN—I KNEW IT WAS STEVE HUDDLED THERE, I HAD TO GO TO HIM..

HE NEEDS SOMEONE—EVEN IF IT'S ONLY ME!

HE WAS CRYING... WHAT COULD I DO BUT WHAT I DID?

SH! DON'T CRY STEVE... IT'S ALL RIGHT..

I..I'VE LOST EVERYTHING, JOANIE! I'M—NO GOOD ANYMORE!

YES, YOU ARE STEVE! YOU WERE THE GREATEST ONCE—YOU CAN BE AGAIN!

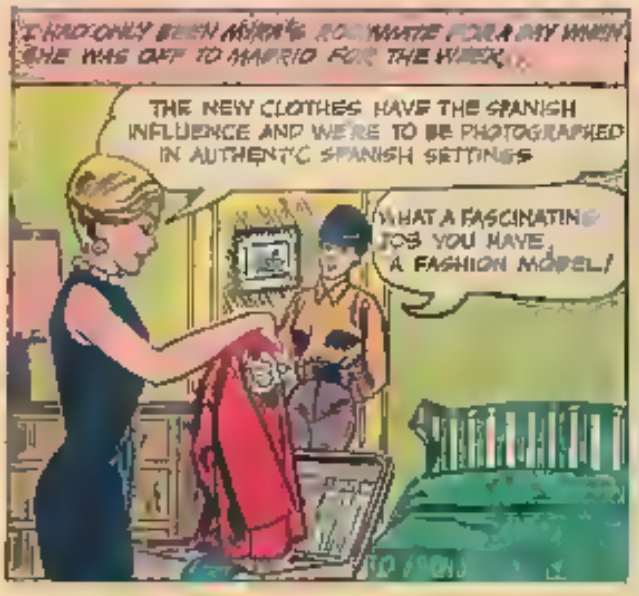
NOT WITHOUT YOU, JOANIE! THE MINUTE IT HIT ME THAT I'D REALLY LOST YOU—I JUST WENT DEAD INSIDE! I'LL NEVER MAKE GOOD AGAIN!

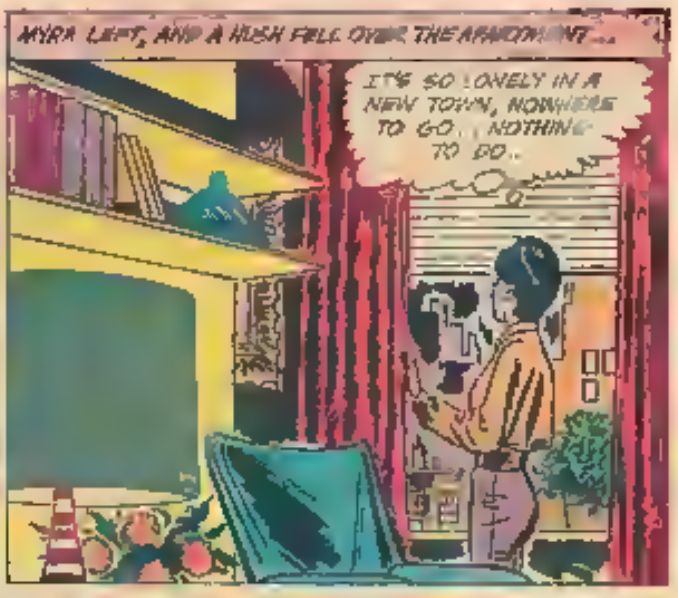
THE RAIN WAS SOFT—THE RAIN WAS GOOD—THE RAIN WAS FALLING ON MY HUNGRY HEART—BRINGING ME STEVE—BRINGING ME LOVE..

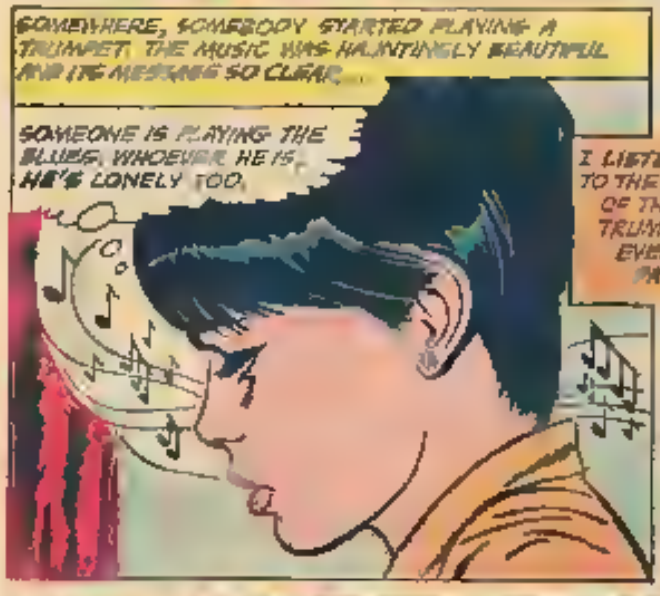
DO IT FOR ME, DARLING—DO IT FOR ME!

The End

MYRA'S FAREWELL WORDS MADE ME WATCH AFTER HIM -- FOR A WHILE BUT THEN CAME A PLAINTIVE SONG OF LOVE FROM THE MAN I HAD NO RIGHT TO WANT... AND...
MY HEART ANSWERED
IF YOU GET TOO LONESOME, CALL BARRY JUST REMEMBER -- HE BELONGS TO ME!
YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME, MYRA ANYWAY, I DON'T EXPECT TO GET LONELY!


I HAD ONLY BEEN MYRA'S ROOMMATE FOR A DAY WHEN SHE WAS OFF TO MADRID FOR THE WEEK...
THE NEW CLOTHES HAVE THE SPANISH INFLUENCE AND WE'RE TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED IN AUTHENTIC SPANISH SETTINGS
WHAT A FASCINATING JOB YOU HAVE, A FASHION MODEL!


MYRA LEFT, AND A HUSH FELL OVER THE APARTMENT...
IT'S SO LONELY IN A NEW TOWN, NOWHERE TO GO... NOTHING TO DO...

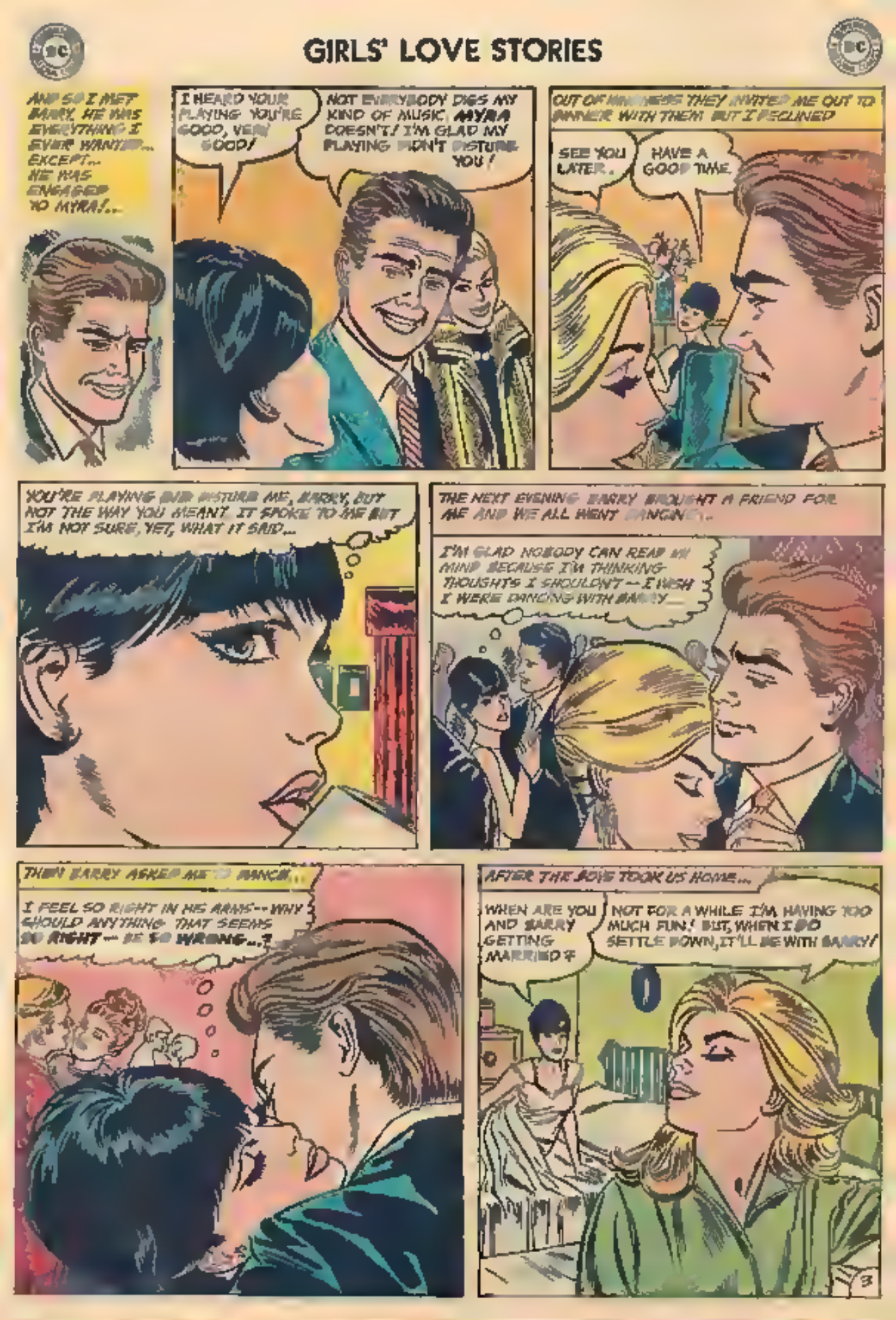

SOMEWHERE, SOMEBODY STARTED PLAYING A TRUMPET. THE MUSIC WAS HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL AND ITS MESSAGE SO CLEAR...
SOMEONE IS PLAYING THE BLUES, WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S LONELY TOO.
I LISTENED TO THE WAILING OF THAT TRUMPET EVERY DAY

I WONDER WHO HE IS? HIS HEART SEEMS TO BE CALLING TO MINE!

WHEN MYRA RETURNED

...I ASKED HER IF SHE KNEW THE TRUMPET PLAYER
OH...
OF COURSE, ANN THAT'S BARRY! WE'RE ENGAGED!

I REALIZED THEN THAT MYRA HADN'T TIME TO TELL ME ABOUT HER PERSONAL LIFE, BEFORE SHE LEFT FOR MADRID
BARRY, DARLING, I'M HOME! COME UP AND MEET MY NEW ROOMMATE!

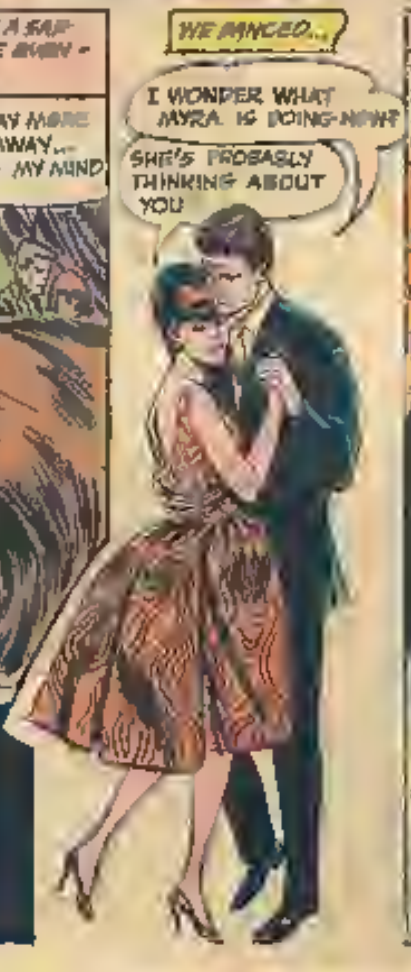

AND SO I MET BARRY. HE WAS EVERYTHING I EVER WANTED... EXCEPT... HE WAS ENGAGED TO MYRA!...
I HEARD YOUR PLAYING. YOU'RE GOOD, VERY GOOD!
NOT EVERYBODY DIGS MY KIND OF MUSIC. MYRA DOESN'T! I'M GLAD MY PLAYING DIDN'T DISTURB YOU!
OUT OF KINDNESS THEY INVITED ME OUT TO DINNER WITH THEM BUT I DECLINED
SEE YOU LATER.
HAVE A GOOD TIME.
YOU'RE PLAYING DID DISTURB ME, BARRY, BUT NOT THE WAY YOU MEANT. IT SPOKE TO ME BUT I'M NOT SURE, YET, WHAT IT SAID...
THE NEXT EVENING BARRY BROUGHT A FRIEND FOR ME AND WE ALL WENT DANCING...
I'M GLAD NOBODY CAN READ MY MIND BECAUSE I'M THINKING THOUGHTS I SHOULDN'T — I WISH I WERE DANCING WITH BARRY...
THEN BARRY ASKED ME TO DANCE...
I FEEL SO RIGHT IN HIS ARMS — WHY SHOULD ANYTHING THAT SEEMS SO RIGHT — BE SO WRONG...?
AFTER THE DOVE TOOK US HOME...
WHEN ARE YOU AND BARRY GETTING MARRIED?
NOT FOR A WHILE. I'M HAVING TOO MUCH FUN! BUT, WHEN I DO SETTLE DOWN, IT'LL BE WITH BARRY!
3

MYRA GOT ANOTHER MODELLING JOB THAT WAS TAKING HER TO ROME FOR THREE WEEKS...
IF YOU GET TOO LONESOME, CALL BARRY. YOU CAN GO OUT WITH HIM SO LONG AS YOU REMEMBER—HE BELONGS TO ME!
YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME, MYRA. ANYWAY, I DON'T EXPECT TO GET LONELY.

BARRY IS PLAYING THE BLUES AGAIN...

IT WAS BARRY WHO GOT LONELY AND HE CALLED ME...
N-NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS FOR TONIGHT -- YES, BARRY, I'D LOVE TO -I'LL BE READY AT SEVEN...

BUT GOING OUT WITH BARRY WAS A SAD MISTAKE...HE SPENT THE WHOLE EVENING CHATTERING ABOUT MYRA...
YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING YOUR TRUMPET A LOT THIS WEEK.
YES... I SEEM TO PLAY MORE WHEN MYRA IS AWAY... MAYBE IT TAKES MY MIND OFF HER!

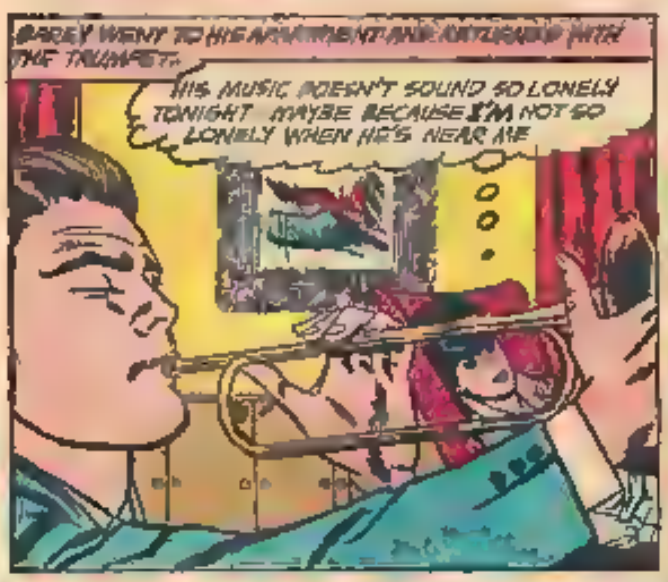

WE DANCED...
I WONDER WHAT MYRA IS DOING NOW?
SHE'S PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT YOU!

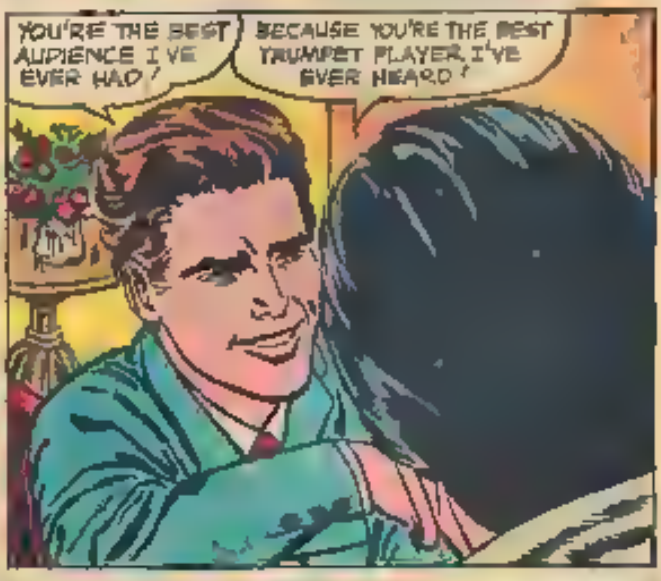
WE WALKED HOME
YOU'VE BEEN VERY UNDERSTANDING, ANN, LETTING ME RAMBLE ON ALL EVENING ABOUT MYRA. NEXT TIME I PROMISE TO TALK OF OTHER THINGS
OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT BARRY, I DON'T MIND

WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO MIND BARRY'S TALKING ABOUT MYRA ?
EVEN IN HIS MUSIC — HE'S TALKING TO MYRA — CALLING TO HER!

I DECIDED NOT TO SEE BARRY ALONE AGAIN — BUT MY HEART OVERRULED THE DECISION...

I MUST HAVE BEEN AN AWFUL BORE LAST TIME I WANT TO MAKE AMENDS WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO TONIGHT — ANYTHING YOU SAY!
I'D LIKE YOU TO PLAY YOUR TRUMPET — JUST FOR ME!

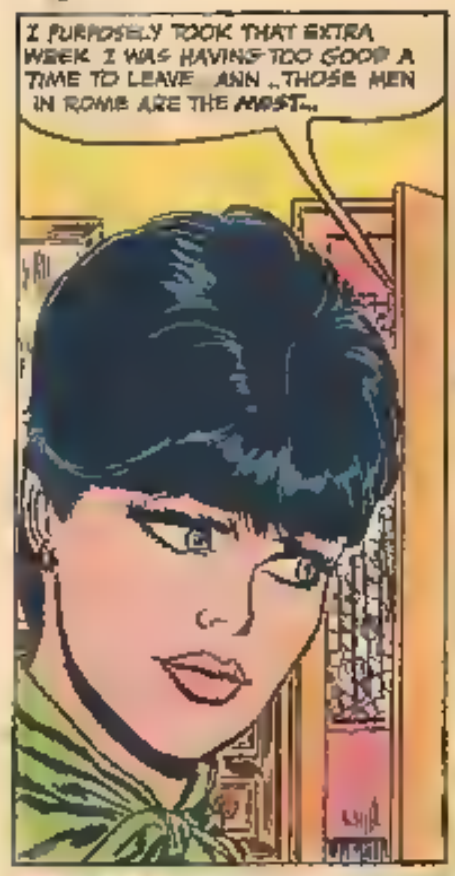

BARRY WENT TO HIS APARTMENT AND ENTERTAINED WITH THE TRUMPET...
HIS MUSIC DOESN'T SOUND SO LONELY TONIGHT. MAYBE BECAUSE I'M NOT SO LONELY WHEN HE'S NEAR ME


YOU'RE THE BEST AUDIENCE I'VE EVER HAD!
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE BEST TRUMPET PLAYER, I'VE EVER HEARD!

BARRY WAS SITTING CLOSE TO ME... NOW I LONGED TO HAVE HIS ARMS AROUND ME, BUT I KNEW IT COULDN'T BE, SO...
IT'S GETTING LATE, BARRY, YOU'D BETTER GO NOW.
SURE, ANN, WHATEVER YOU SAY

I SAW BARRY A FEW MORE TIMES. HE MADE AN OBVIOUS EFFORT NOT TO MENTION MYRA. FINALLY I DID
MYRA WILL BE HOME IN A FEW DAYS!
YES, I'M GLAD!

THE DAY MYRA WAS DUE BACK, BARRY WAITED WITH ME THEN HER TELEGRAM ARRIVED
SHE'S BEEN DELAYED A WEEK!
OH, TOO BAD—AND I WAS SO ANXIOUS TO SEE HER!
BARRY SEEMED DEPRESSED...HE WANTED ME TO A MOVIE BUT I PLEADED A HEADACHE, AND HE LEFT
NOT JUST A HEADACHE— I ACHE ALL OVER. WHAT CURE IS THERE FOR FORBIDDEN LOVE?
BARRY CALLED EACH DAY TO ASK HOW I FELT, AND INCIDENTALLY, IF I'D HEARD ANYTHING MORE FROM MYRA
I'LL TELL MYRA TO CALL YOU THE MOMENT SHE ARRIVES!
I HEARD BARRY PLAYING BUT NOW HIS MUSIC WAS LIGHT AND GAY
HE'S HAPPY BECAUSE MYRA'S COMING HOME.
FINALLY, MYRA RETURNED...
WELCOME HOME, MYRA. BARRY IS WAITING FOR YOU. I TOLD HIM YOU'D CALL THE MOMENT YOU GOT IN
OH, OKAY, BUT THEN I MUST TELL YOU ABOUT THE MARVELOUS TIME I HAD!
YES BARRY—I WANT TO SHOWER AND CHANGE. I'LL BE READY IN AN HOUR, DARLING
6


I PURPOSELY TOOK THAT EXTRA WEEK. I WAS HAVING TOO GOOD A TIME TO LEAVE ANN ..THOSE MEN IN ROME ARE THE MOST...

BUT WHAT ABOUT BARRY?
WELL, I'M BACK, AS YOU CAN SEE. BARRY IS STILL MY MAN!

BARRY CALLED FOR MYRA AND THEN WENT OUT, BUT I WAS SURPRISED WHEN MYRA RETURNED QUITE EARLY.
HOW ABOUT THAT! BARRY'S BROKEN OUR ENGAGEMENT—SAYS HE DOESN'T LOVE ME ANYMORE—THIS IS WHAT I HAD TO RUSH BACK TO!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HE WAS SO EAGER TO SEE YOU!

SURE—JUST SO HE COULD BREAK OUR ENGAGEMENT!
IS HE IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE?

OF COURSE NOT! I THINK HE'S JUST ANGRY BECAUSE I STAYED AWAY SO LONG...
YES... YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT

THE NEXT DAY BARRY WAS PLAYING THE BLUES AGAIN...
HE'S UNHAPPY. WHY DON'T YOU GO TO HIM AND TRY TO MAKE UP!
I WILL, BUT LET HIM STEW FOR A WHILE. MAYBE IT'LL DO HIM SOOM GOOD!

BARRY'S TRUMPET KEPT SINGING THE BLUES, AND IT WAS BREAKING MY HEART. AFTER A FEW DAYS, I COULD NO LONGER BEAR IT..
HE'S CALLING TO YOU CAN'T YOU FEEL IT ?
NO, BUT IF YOU SAY SO— ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO TO HIM, RIGHT NOW!
THE MUSIC STOPPED ABRUPTLY I VISUALIZED
BUT THE RECONCILIATION SCENE OCCURRED ONLY IN MY MIND, BECAUSE MYRA WAS BACK IN A FEW MINUTES..
YOU WERE WRONG HE REALLY MEANT IT WHEN HE SAID HE NO LONGER LOVED ME! WELL, I'M FINISHED WITH HIM!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK NOW!
BARRY'S MUSIC STARTED AGAIN IT HURT ME TO LISTEN TO IT. I WAS SO SURE HE WAS CRYING OUT TO SOMEONE..
COULD THAT SOMEONE BE ME BARRY AND MYRA ARE THROUGH WITH EACH OTHER DEFINITELY NOW
BARRY HAD NEVER SEN ME ANY HINTS THAT HE CARED FOR ME - BUT I COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR MY REACTION TO HIS MUSIC -- IT HAD TO MEAN SOMETHING.. I WENT TO HIM...
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
WA TING FOR ME ?
YES! ALL MY LIFE -- I KNOW THAT NOW!
I HEARD THE MESSAGE IN YOUR MUSIC BUT I WASN'T SURE YOU MEANT IT FOR ME. OH, DARLING!
The End

From Barbara Miles, With Love

Dear Miss Miles

My boyfriend has asked me to marry him Even though I love him dearly, I haven t finished high school and I want to get a degree in art I'm afraid he'll get another girl if I say no What shall I do?

"Confused"

Dear "Confused"

I think you should continue with your education It is extremely valuable to your development as a person and may add dimension to your security in the future

If your boyfriend doesn't love you enough to wait then he certainly does not love you enough to marry!

Truly yours,
Barbara Miles

Dear "Wondering"

It looks as though you'll have to resort to those social activities that permit a girl to invite a boy—such as parties at home or class dances or parties

You could also send him an occasional greeting card on appropriate holidays to remind him that you're alive. Do you know when his birthday is?

It s also possible you attend the same church, you could strengthen your acquaintance at that time.

And if worse comes to worse—there is always another summer on the beach!

Truly yours,
Barbara Miles

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Miss Miles.

I like a boy very much and everyone tells me he likes me I used to go down to the beach every day in the summer where I had the chance to see what kind of boy he was He seemed to be all right except that he was a little shy People say he's changed a lot since summer but we go to a Catholic school where girls are separated from the boys so I don't see him enough to know

He lives about ten blocks away from me and since I know no one who lives near him, I haven't much chance to find out if the rumors about his liking me are true How can I get a chance to see more of him and make him pay more attention to me?

"Wondering'

Dear Miss Miles·

I have a horrible problem. I am completely boyless! I am 5'1", which is fairly short for a Sophomore in high school. I have pretty naturally-curly auburn hair, a good complexion, large pretty brown eyes and a fairly nice figure

Whenever I go to a dance (I go alone because my father won't let me date until I'm a Junior) no one seems to even see me I always dress nicely in clean clothes that fit, nothing is out of style, and I never use too much make-up But I see girls at dances who are so homely it's pitiful—and they always dance!

I never talk about other people because I only have one girlfriend to

talk to She has a nice figure and a pleasant face. But her hair is always messy and she wears too much make-up all on crooked, dresses sloppily, is shy, and doesn't know how to walk as though she has any pride in herself She has no boyfriends or girlfriends (except me) either I really like her a lot because we go horseback riding together (we live way out in the country) but at school I am ashamed to be seen with her

I would like to have more friends. My older brother is very popular and he is always telling me I should mingle more But the girls I vaguely know don't seem to be interested and they make me feel inferior and boyish when I am around them

I draw very well. Do you think this could aid me on my road to popularity? Please answer in GIRLS LOVE.

Sincerely,
"Tragic Problem"

Dear "Tragic Problem"

You have so much in your favor that I can't consider you a "tragic problem"! Aside from all the attributes you mentioned, you are intelligent and pretty much aware of your world

As for your problem, I think your brother is right You don't mingle enough with the right boys and girls I'm very much afraid that the one girlfriend you have chosen is doing you no good I'm not for a moment suggesting that you drop her like a hot potato, your sense of decency would not allow you to do that But you could help her to be a more desirable friend to the other girls at school And while you're doing that, you should ease far enough away from her to allow the other girls room to make friends with you Perhaps they want to make friends but feel they haven't a chance because of your close friendship with your one girlfriend. They may also be embarrassed by being with her, as you say you are, and realize they can't be with you without being with her.

How can you help your friend? Well, you must be sure you don't hurt her feelings, of course Be subtle about it Perhaps you could find an article about good grooming in a magazine and be reading it when she comes around. Get her interested in it by being interested in it yourself, as though you are reading it in search of a way of improving yourself Or, you could show an interest in her coiffure yourself suggesting that you'd like to see how it looks this way or that By switching your own interests a little away from the less feminine to the more feminine may lead her to realize her own problems If you find it impossible to help her because she doesn't want to change, then I don't think you should permit her to become a chain around your neck Ease away from her and make the kind of friends of whom you can be proud Lots of other girls can ride horseback, you know! I'll bet if you invited them to come to your house in the country to ride they'd love it! Most girls don't have such an opportunity

About your drawing ability, I most certainly do think it can be an asset to your popularity Everyone admires someone who can draw! But don't depend upon that alone You have to want friends before you can make them Invite girls and boys to your home and see if they aren't willing to come.

Truly yours,
Barbara Miles

Editor's note Because of the bulk of mail received by Barbara Miles, it is impossible to answer requests for personal replies by mail. It is also impossible to print every letter in this column and so we have chosen a cross-section of letters that best represent each and every problem posed —Ed

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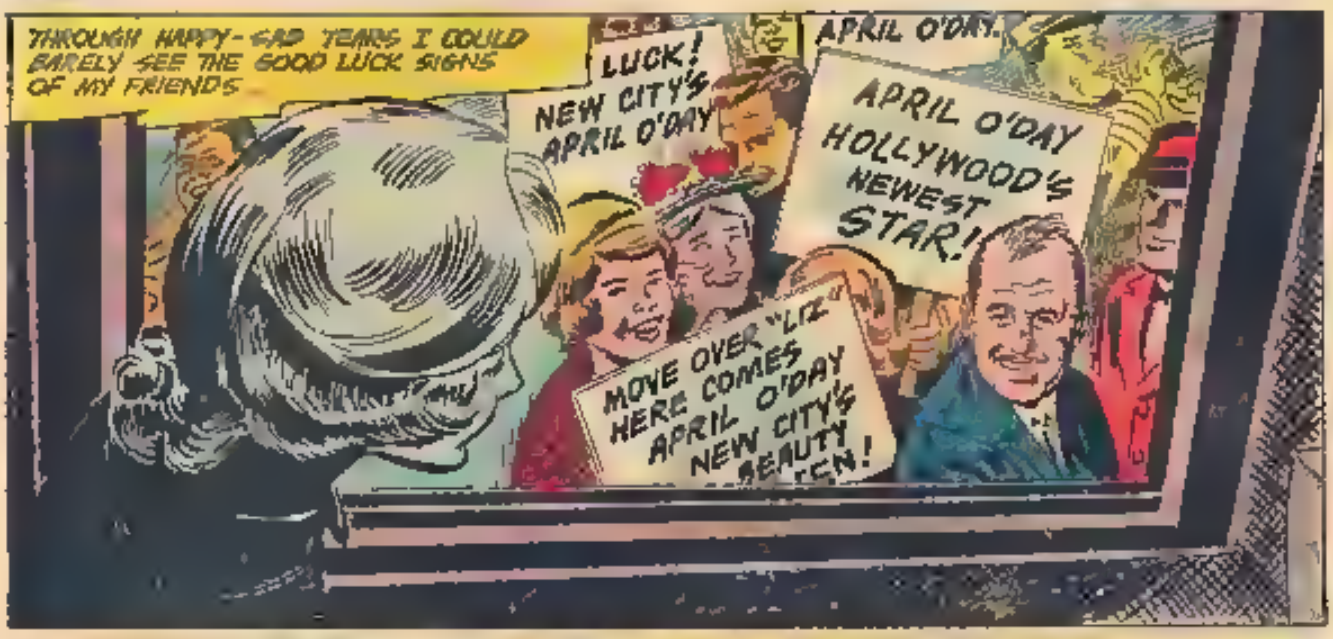
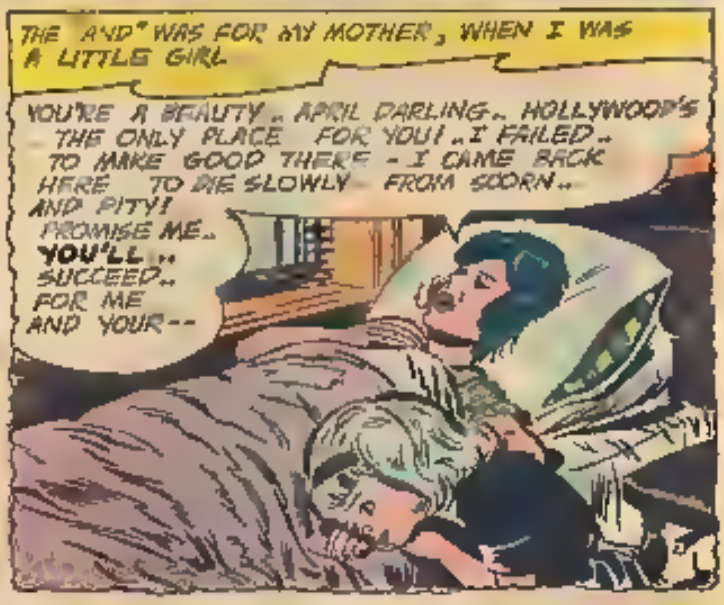
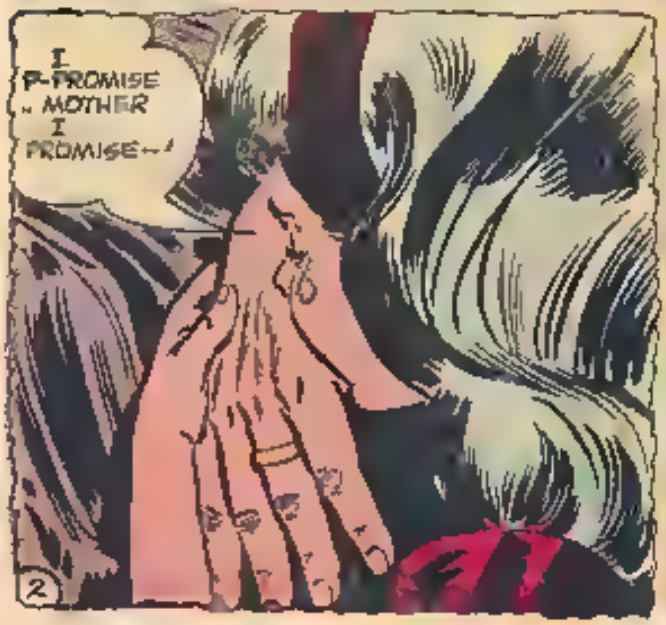
I THOUGHT THAT HOLLYWOOD WOULD GREET ME WITH OPEN ARMS! INSTEAD—IT TURNED ITS BACK ON ME!.. I HELD OUT MY HEART TO ROY .. BUT ALL I HAD LEFT WAS THE AGONY OF...

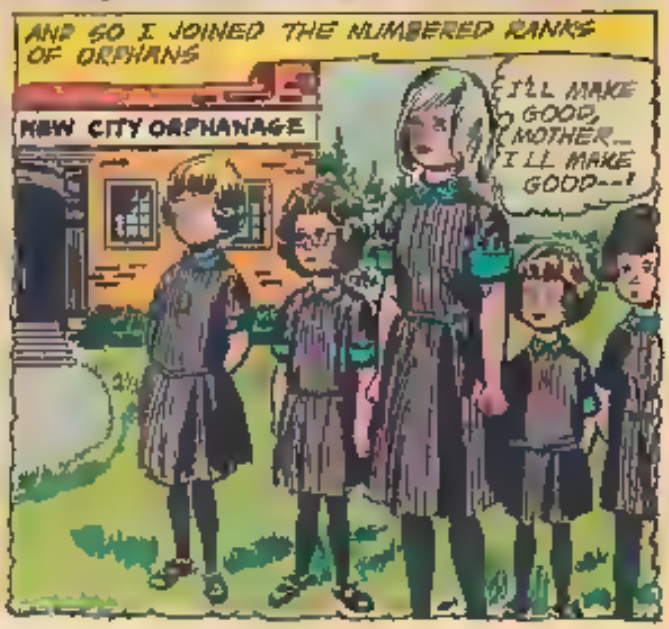
First Kiss — Last Kiss


THROUGH HAPPY-SAD TEARS I COULD BARELY SEE THE GOOD LUCK SIGNS OF MY FRIENDS
LUCK! NEW CITY'S APRIL O'DAY
APRIL O'DAY.
APRIL O'DAY HOLLYWOOD'S NEWEST STAR!
MOVE OVER "LIZ" HERE COMES APRIL O'DAY NEW CITY'S BEAUTY QUEEN!

MY HEART BEAT IN TIME WITH THE FLASHING TRAIN WHEELS WHICH WERE BRINGING ME TO HOLLYWOOD.
I WON'T COME BACK - UNTIL I BECOME A STAR! FOR THEM--AND.

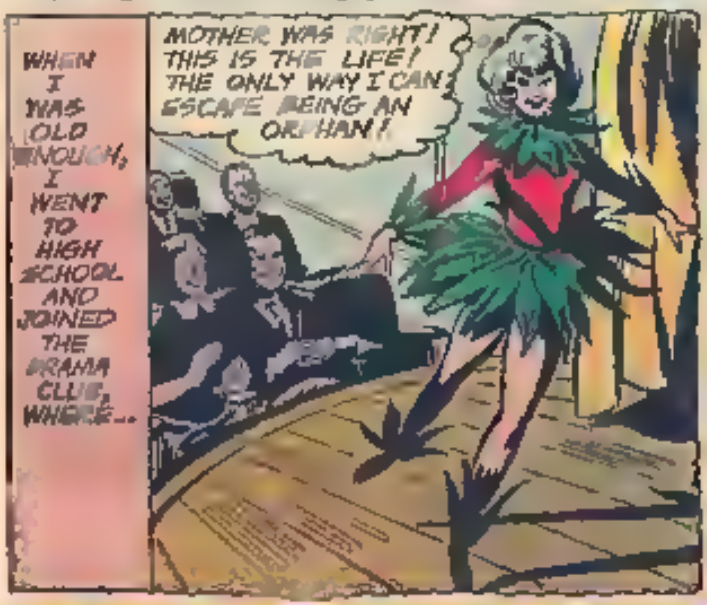

THE "AND" WAS FOR MY MOTHER, WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL
YOU'RE A BEAUTY.. APRIL DARLING.. HOLLYWOOD'S THE ONLY PLACE FOR YOU! .. I FAILED.. TO MAKE GOOD THERE - I CAME BACK HERE TO DIE SLOWLY - FROM SCORN.. AND PITY! PROMISE ME.. YOU'LL.. SUCCEED.. FOR ME AND YOUR--


I P-PROMISE .. MOTHER I PROMISE--!

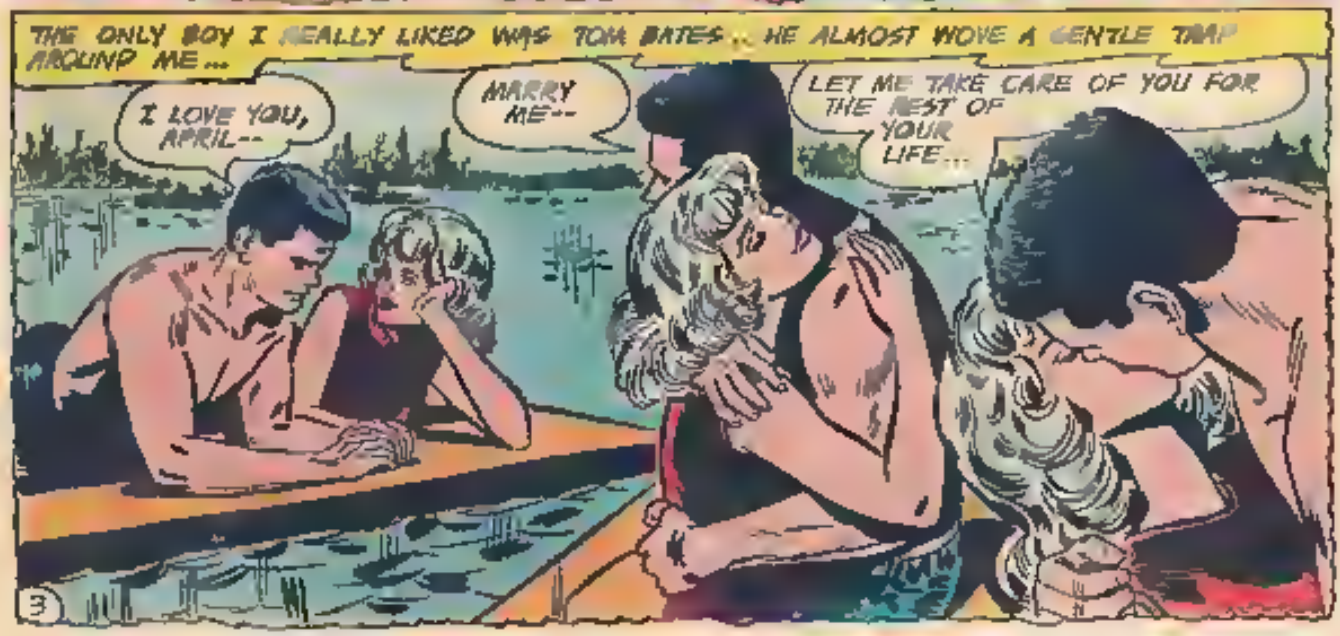

AND SO I JOINED THE NUMBERED RANKS OF ORPHANS
NEW CITY ORPHANAGE
I'LL MAKE GOOD, MOTHER... I'LL MAKE GOOD--!

TINY, GURGLING BABIES ARE PREFERRED FOR ADOPTION TO GANGLING TEENAGERS...
DON'T CRY, APRIL! YOU'RE A VERY PRETTY GIRL! SOME DAY YOU'LL MEET A NICE BOY WHO'LL MARRY YOU AND TAKE CARE OF YOU!

MY TEENAGE OUTBURST MUST HAVE STARTLED THE ORPHANAGE MATRON!
I D-DON'T WANT TO B-BE TAKEN CARE OF ALL MY LIFE-- LIKE AN ORPHAN!-- I'M GOING TO H-HOLLYWOOD! TO BE A STAR! AND K-KEEP MY PROMISE--!


WHEN I WAS OLD ENOUGH, I WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL AND JOINED THE DRAMA CLUB, WHERE...
MOTHER WAS RIGHT! THIS IS THE LIFE! THE ONLY WAY I CAN ESCAPE BEING AN ORPHAN!

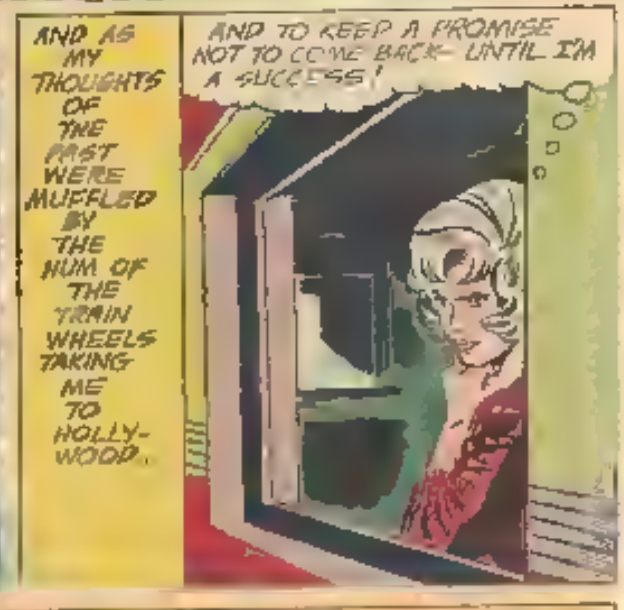
EVENTUALLY, I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO WORK...
YOU'RE PRETTY ENOUGH TO BE IN PICTURES, APRIL! HOW ABOUT PLAYING A "LOVE SCENE" WITH ME AFTER WORK?
NO, THANKS! I'D RATHER STAY HOME WITH A GOOD BOOK!

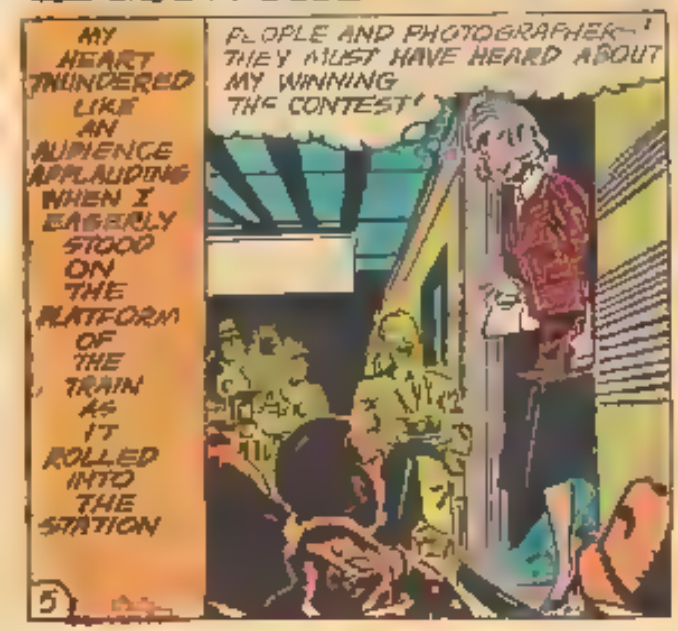

THE ONLY BOY I REALLY LIKED WAS TOM BATES... HE ALMOST WOVE A GENTLE TRAP AROUND ME...
I LOVE YOU, APRIL--
MARRY ME--
LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE...

TOM'S KISSES WERE AS KIND AND GENTLE AS HE-- BUT...
APRIL--?
NO-- NO--!
THE MOON SHONE DOWN ON ME LIKE A SPOTLIGHT..
I DON'T WANT TO BE TAKEN CARE OF FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE-- LIKE AN ORPHAN! I'VE A PROMISE TO KEEP!
FROM THEN ON, I TRIED OUT FOR EVERY AMATEUR THEATRICAL CLUB..
MAYBE A TALENT SCOUT WILL SEE ME THIS TIME!
I ENTERED EVERY BEAUTY CONTEST..
BEAUTY
MISS DAIRY QUEEN
MAYBE SOMEBODY WILL NOTICE ME NOW?
FINALLY AT A STATE-WIDE BEAUTY AND TALENT CONTEST, FIRE-WORKS SEEMED TO ERUPT IN MY HEART, WHEN
HERE SHE IS! OUR BEAUTY QUEEN WHO WINS A FREE TRIP TO HOLLYWOOD OUR OWN MISS APRIL O'DAY! WHO IS SURE TO BECOME A BRIGHT MORNING STAR!
4

THE NIGHT BEFORE I LEFT, TOM'S GENTLE ARMS ENCLOSED ME, AND HIS SOFT LIPS CAME DOWN TO MINE
APRIL... APRIL...
WHY ARE YOU LEAVING?
WHY WHY--?

THE ANSWER CAME FROM SO DEEP WITHIN ME THAT A WALL ROSE UP BETWEEN US
TO BE SOMEBODY, TOM! NOT ANOTHER FACE LOST IN THE CROWD! OR A NAME NO ONE EVER HEARD OF--!


AND AS MY THOUGHTS OF THE PAST WERE MUFFLED BY THE HUM OF THE TRAIN WHEELS TAKING ME TO HOLLY-WOOD...
AND TO KEEP A PROMISE NOT TO COME BACK UNTIL I'M A SUCCESS!


MY HEART THUNDERED LIKE AN AUDIENCE APPLAUDING WHEN I EAGERLY STOOD ON THE PLATFORM OF THE TRAIN AS IT ROLLED INTO THE STATION
PEOPLE AND PHOTOGRAPHERS! THEY MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT MY WINNING THE CONTEST!

MY SMILE FROZE ON MY LIPS AS I WAS LITERALLY PUSHED ASIDE...
ONE SIDE, MISS! YOU'RE BLOCKING THE AISLE! LET MISS DAWN THROUGH! CAN'T YOU SEE THE CROWD WAITING FOR HER?

IF EVER A GHOST COULD FEEL LIKE A NAMELESS ORPHAN, I FELT LIKE ONE--AS THE FABULOUS STAR WAS SURROUNDED BY AN APPLAUDING CROWD...

JUST ONE MORE SHOT, MISS DAWN--PLEASE?

WHO'S THE REAL HEART-THROB? GRANT? MICKEY? OR ARTURO?

WILL YOU RENEW YOUR CONTRACT IF THEY GIVE YOU A MILLION?

THEN SHE LEFT LEAVING ME ALONE IN THE STATION, BITTERLY TASTING THE STAR-DUST SHE HAD LEFT BEHIND

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MINUTE OR A CENTURY LATER, THAT I HEARD HIS TIRED VOICE, EVEN BEFORE I MET HIS TIRED EYES...

YOU HAVE THE DAZED, WOUNDED LOOK OF SOMEONE WHO'S COME TO STORM THE WALLS OF HOLLYWOOD - AND HAS JUST SEEN THE REAL STAR! AND LEARNED THAT YOU'RE A MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY FROM HER!

THE TIRED, WORLD-WEARY STRANGER HAD STRIPPED THE SKIN FROM MY HEARTACHE. I FOUGHT BACK BURNING TEARS--UNSUCCESSFULLY...

MY EDITOR HATES ME! SO HE SENDS ME TO MEET ALL THE NAMELESS LITTLE BEAUTY CONTEST WINNERS OF TRIPS TO HOLLYWOOD--TO GET THEIR STORY BEFORE THEY VANISH IN A SEA OF DESPAIR!

ALL I COULD THINK OF DOING WAS TO RUN AND CRY OUT...

I'M--NOT GOING TO REMAIN NAMELESS! --I'M NOT GOING TO VANISH-- I'M GOING TO BE A STAR --LIKE HER!

END OF PART ONE! PART TWO OF STARLET APRIL O'DAY IN 'FIRST KISS LAST KISS' CONTINUES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE!

STARLET O'DAY IN "FIRST KISS LAST KISS"!

AS I STOOD DAZED OUTSIDE THE STATION, AT THE SEA OF BLANK FACES WHICH ROLLED PAST ME AS IF I DIDN'T EXIST— THE WEARY VOICE CAUGHT UP TO ME,

YOU'RE TOO NICE TO HAVE YOUR HEART BROKEN INTO SO MANY LITTLE PIECES— IT WOULD NEVER BE RECOGNIZED AS A HEART AGAIN! GO BACK HOME AND MARRY THE BOY WHO'S WAITING FOR YOU! AND LET HIM TAKE CARE OF YOU!

I FORGOT MY LONELINESS IN THE BLAZE OF ANGER THAT ERUPTED FROM ME

NO ONE NO ONE —IS EVER GOING TO TAKE CARE OF ME— AS IF I WERE AN ORPHAN AGAIN! I'M HERE TO STAY— TO STAY NO MATTER WHAT— UNTIL I BECOME A STAR!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, HIS VOICE AND HIS EYES BECAME A LITTLE LESS TIRED...

ALL RIGHT, MISS APRIL O'DAY! THEN— THE FIRST THING YOU'LL NEED IS A PLACE TO STAY! THE STARLET'S CLUB IS THE BEST! IF YOU DON'T MIND BEING SURROUNDED BY GIRLS ALL OF WHOM ARE BATTLING TO BECOME STARS TOO! AND IF YOU CAN STAND MRS TARRY'S COOKING! BUT—IT'S CHEAP!

IN THE CAB, ROY SINCLAIR TOLD ME HIS NAME, AND WHEN I ASKED HOW HE KNEW MINE...

ALL THE CONTEST PAPERS SEND US RELEASES AND PHOTOS! THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR FACE THAT MADE ME LOOK FOR YOU, APRIL—

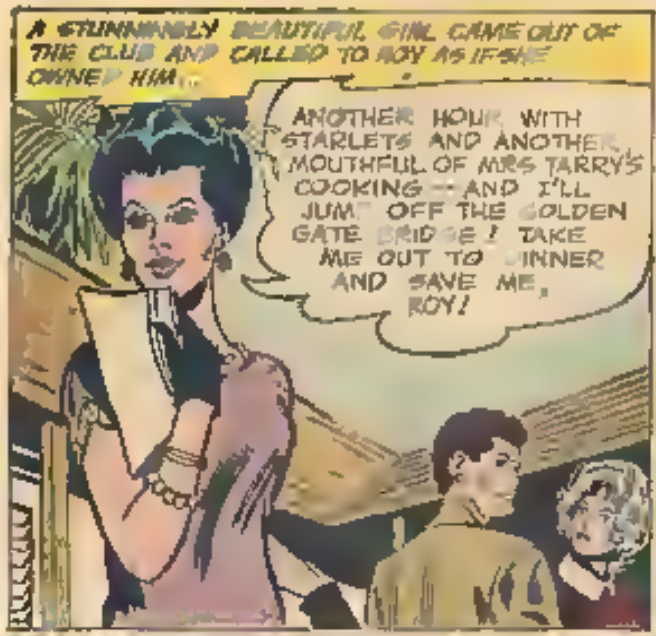
I'M GLAD

YOUR DRIVER

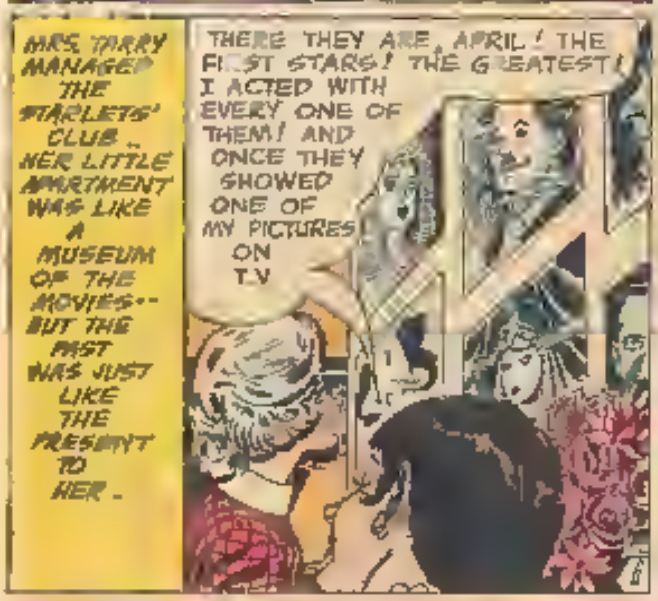
LATER, AT THE STARLETS' CLUB, ROY INTRODUCED ME TO MRS TARRY. HER FACE LOOKED FAMILIAR...

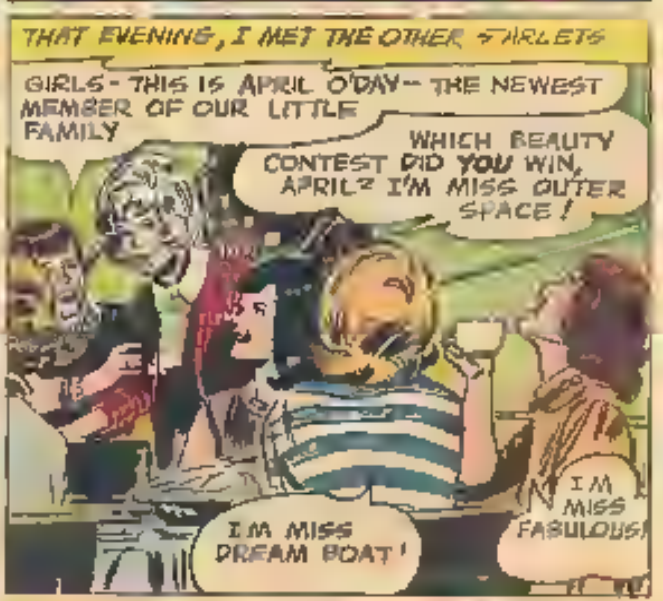
AREN'T YOU THE MARY TARRY? I'M SURE I'VE SEEN YOUR PICTURE IN FAN MAGAZINES SHOWING STARS OF SILENT SCREEN DAYS?

BLESS YOU FOR REMEMBERING, CHILD! THOSE DAYS ARE GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!


A STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL GIRL CAME OUT OF THE CLUB AND CALLED TO ROY AS IF SHE OWNED HIM...
ANOTHER HOUR WITH STARLETS AND ANOTHER MOUTHFUL OF MRS TARRY'S COOKING -- AND I'LL JUMP OFF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE! TAKE ME OUT TO DINNER AND SAVE ME, ROY!

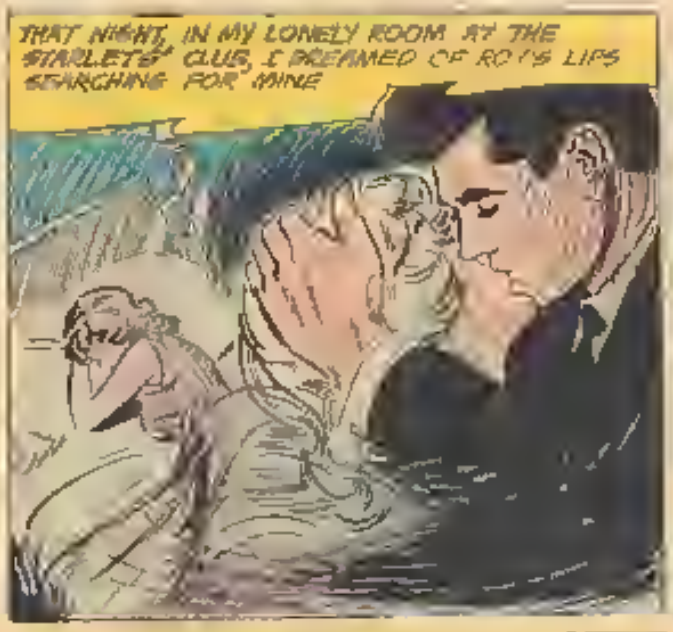
MY HEART FELL SICKENINGLY AS THE REGAL BEAUTY SWEPT ROY OFF WITH HER AS IF I DIDN'T EXIST -- EVEN THOUGH HE WAVED BACK AT ME..
NORGEN DALE, AND ROY HAVE MADE UP AND BROKEN OFF A DOZEN TIMES! THIS WILL BE THE THIRTEENTH! DON'T WORRY, APRIL -- HE'LL NOT FORGET YOU!

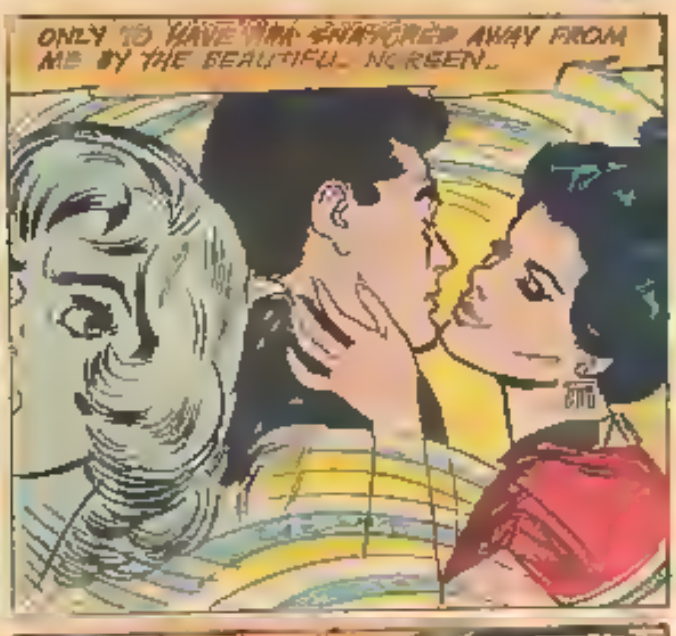

MRS TARRY MANAGED THE STARLETS' CLUB.. HER LITTLE APARTMENT WAS LIKE A MUSEUM OF THE MOVIES -- BUT THE PAST WAS JUST LIKE THE PRESENT TO HER.
THERE THEY ARE, APRIL! THE FIRST STARS! THE GREATEST! I ACTED WITH EVERY ONE OF THEM! AND ONCE THEY SHOWED ONE OF MY PICTURES ON T.V

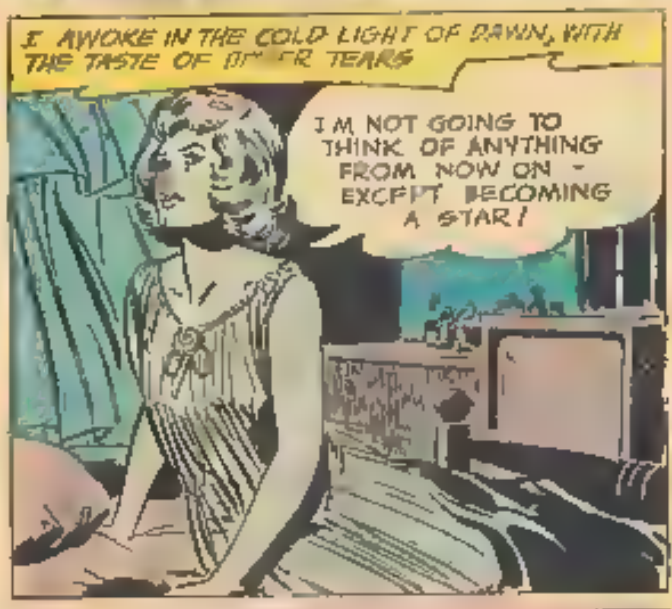

THAT EVENING, I MET THE OTHER STARLETS
GIRLS - THIS IS APRIL O'DAY -- THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR LITTLE FAMILY
WHICH BEAUTY CONTEST DID YOU WIN, APRIL? I'M MISS OUTER SPACE!
I'M MISS DREAM BOAT!
I'M MISS FABULOUS!

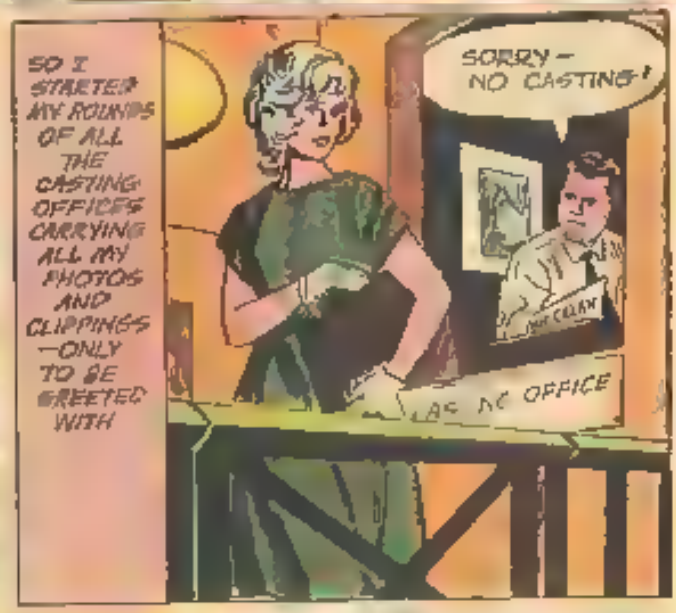
I SOON DISCOVERED THAT THE HOLLYWOOD MOVIE SKIES WERE A CROWDED PLACE..
ALL OF US WON BEAUTY CONTESTS! ALL OF US CAME TO HOLLYWOOD TO BECOME STARS! ALL OF US ARE 'STARRING' AS CARHOPS, WAITRESSES, SALESGIRLS!
OUR ADVICE TO YOU IS TO GO HOME WHILE YOU STILL HAVE STARS IN YOUR EYES - NOT SCARS ON YOUR HEART!

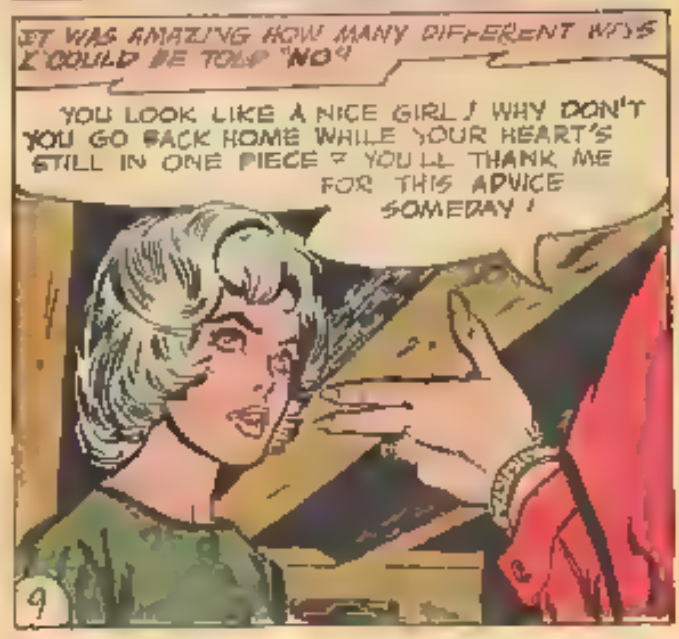
SOME FIRE INSIDE ME BLAZED OUT
I'M NEVER GOING BACK HOME - UNLESS IT'S AS A STAR!

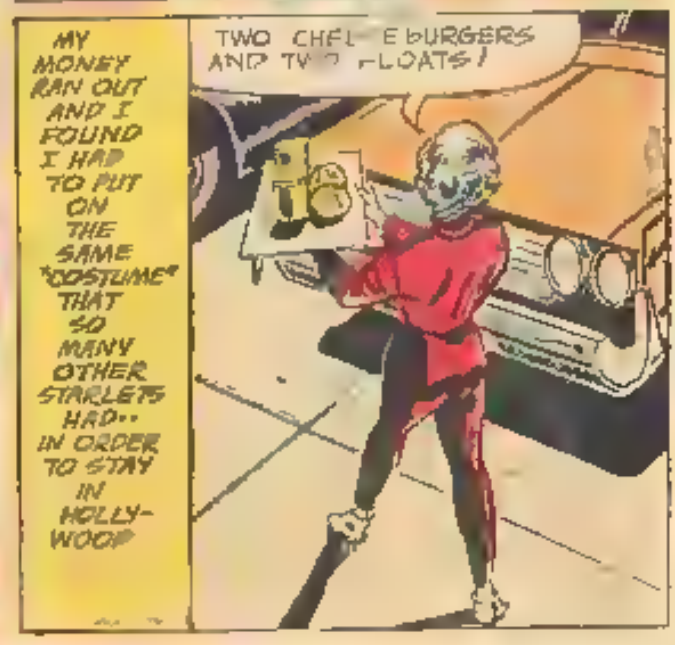

THAT NIGHT, IN MY LONELY ROOM AT THE STARLETS' CLUB, I DREAMED OF ROY'S LIPS SEARCHING FOR MINE


ONLY TO HAVE HIM SNATCHED AWAY FROM ME BY THE BEAUTIFUL NOREEN...

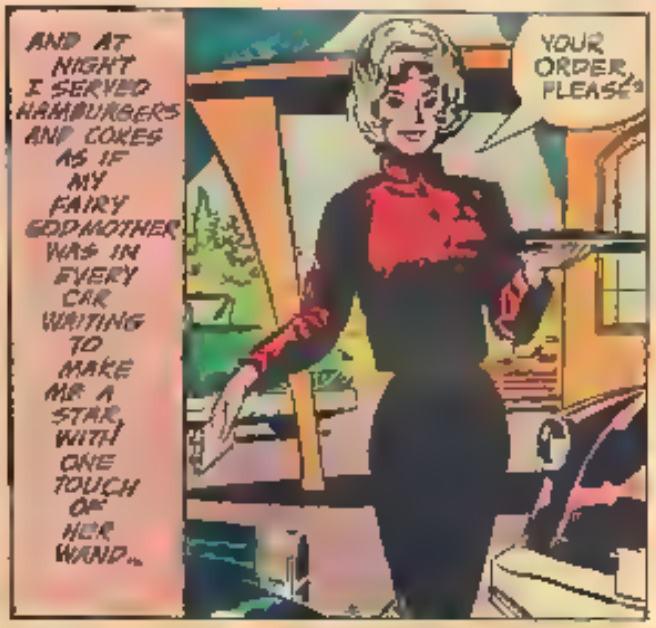

I AWOKE IN THE COLD LIGHT OF DAWN, WITH THE TASTE OF BITTER TEARS
I'M NOT GOING TO THINK OF ANYTHING FROM NOW ON - EXCEPT BECOMING A STAR!

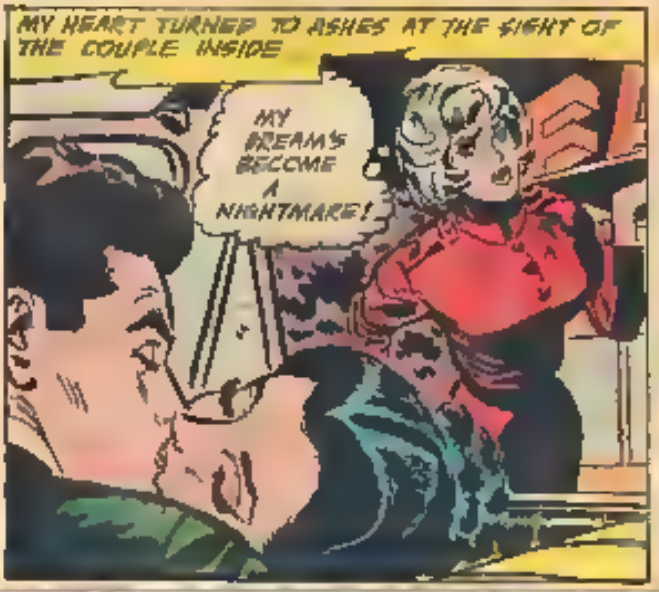

SO I STARTED MY ROUNDS OF ALL THE CASTING OFFICES CARRYING ALL MY PHOTOS AND CLIPPINGS —ONLY TO BE GREETED WITH
SORRY — NO CASTING!
LAS VEGAS OFFICE

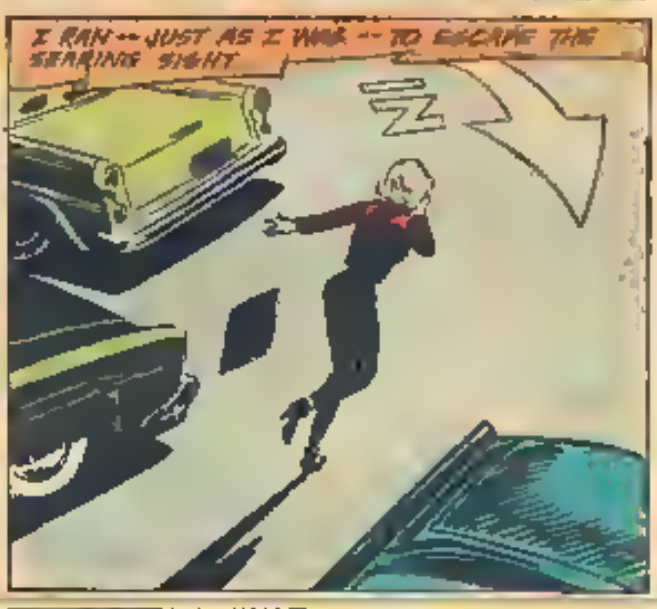

IT WAS AMAZING HOW MANY DIFFERENT WAYS I COULD BE TOLD "NO"!
YOU LOOK LIKE A NICE GIRL! WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK HOME WHILE YOUR HEART'S STILL IN ONE PIECE? YOU'LL THANK ME FOR THIS ADVICE SOMEDAY!


MY MONEY RAN OUT AND I FOUND I HAD TO PUT ON THE SAME "COSTUME" THAT SO MANY OTHER STARLETS HAD... IN ORDER TO STAY IN HOLLYWOOD
TWO CHEESEBURGERS AND TWO FLOATS!

BY DAY I HAUNTED EVERY CASTING OFFICE, EVERY AGENT, EVERY AUDITION...
ALL RIGHT, GIRLS! THANK YOU! I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF WE NEED ANY MORE FOR THE CHORUS!

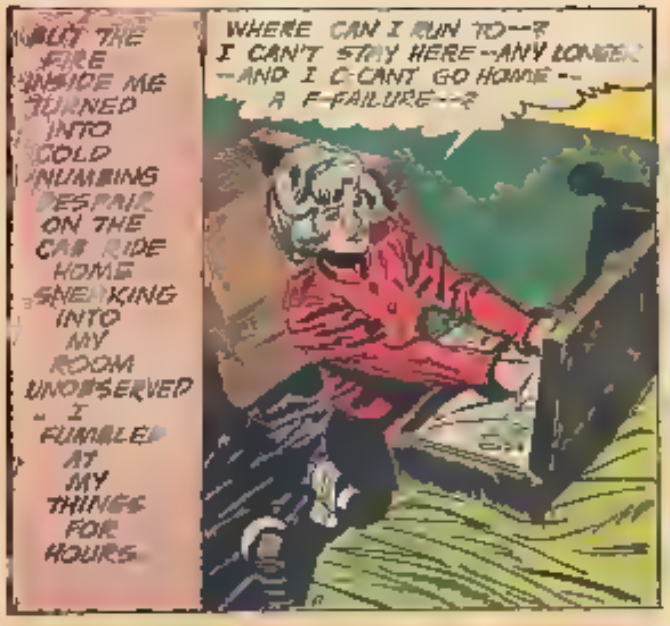

AND AT NIGHT I SERVED HAMBURGERS AND COKES AS IF MY FAIRY GODMOTHER WAS IN EVERY CAR WAITING TO MAKE ME A STAR WITH ONE TOUCH OF HER WAND...
YOUR ORDER, PLEASE?


MY HEART TURNED TO ASHES AT THE SIGHT OF THE COUPLE INSIDE
MY DREAM'S BECOME A NIGHTMARE!

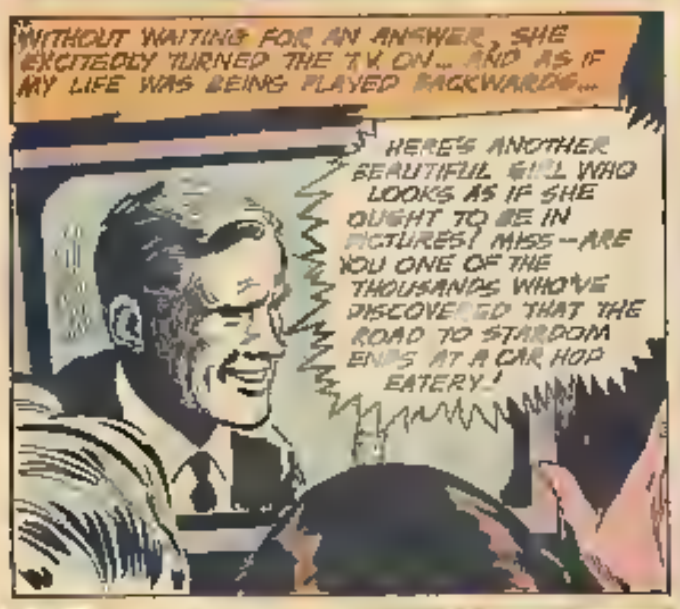

I RAN -- JUST AS I WAS -- TO ESCAPE THE SEARING SIGHT

BUT FATE WASN'T THROUGH WITH ME -- ON THE BOULEVARD OUTSIDE -- I WAS STOPPED BY A SIDEWALK TV INTER-VIEWER...
HERE'S ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHO LOOKS AS IF SHE OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES! MISS -- ARE YOU ONE OF THE THOUSANDS WHO'VE DISCOVERED THAT THE ROAD TO STARDOM ENDS AT A CAR HOP EATERY?

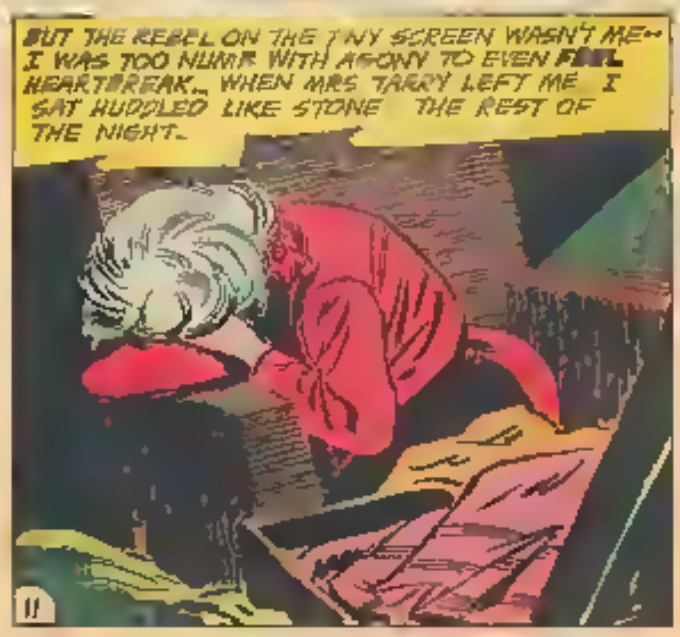
ONCE AGAIN THE FIRE BURNING INSIDE OF ME LASHED OUT BLINDLY...
IT HASN'T ENDED! NOT FOR ME -- APRIL O'DAY! I'M GOING TO BE A STAR -- IF I HAVE TO WALK OVER THE BROKEN PIECES OF MY HEART TO DO IT!

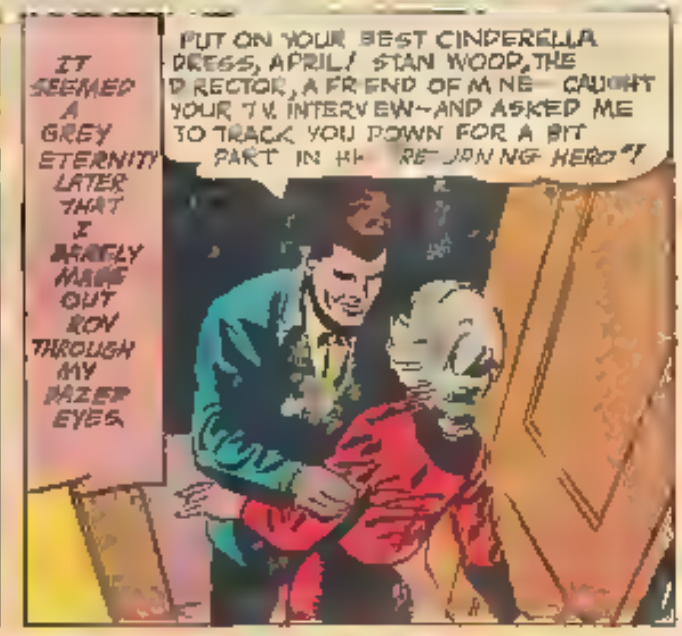

BUT THE FIRE INSIDE ME TURNED INTO COLD NUMBING DESPAIR ON THE CAB RIDE HOME SNEAKING INTO MY ROOM UNOBSERVED - I FUMBLED AT MY THINGS FOR HOURS...
WHERE CAN I RUN TO--? I CAN'T STAY HERE--ANY LONGER --AND I C-CANT GO HOME -- A F-FAILURE--?

JUST THINK--WHEN MARY BROKE IN, EXCITEMENT RUNNING HIGH TO MY MISERY...
APRIL! APRIL! TURN ON YOUR T.V.! THEY'RE REBROADCASTING THE "HOLLYWOOD 1001 NIGHTS TALES"! OH--APRIL--WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?


WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN ANSWER, SHE EXCITEDLY TURNED THE T.V. ON... AND AS IF MY LIFE WAS BEING PLAYED BACKWARDS...
HERE'S ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHO LOOKS AS IF SHE OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES! MISS--ARE YOU ONE OF THE THOUSANDS WHO'VE DISCOVERED THAT THE ROAD TO STARDOM ENDS AT A CAR HOP EATERY!

I SAW A FIERY STRANGER ANSWER...
IT HASN'T ENDED! NOT FOR ME--APRIL O'DAY! I'M GOING TO BE A STAR--IF I HAVE TO WALK OVER THE BROKEN PIECES OF MY HEART TO DO IT!


BUT THE REBEL ON THE TINY SCREEN WASN'T ME-- I WAS TOO NUMB WITH AGONY TO EVEN FEEL HEARTBREAK... WHEN MRS TARRY LEFT ME I SAT HUDDLED LIKE STONE THE REST OF THE NIGHT...


IT SEEMED A GREY ETERNITY LATER THAT I BARELY MADE OUT RON THROUGH MY DAZED EYES.
PUT ON YOUR BEST CINDERELLA DRESS, APRIL! STAN WOOD, THE DIRECTOR, A FRIEND OF MINE--CAUGHT YOUR T.V. INTERVIEW--AND ASKED ME TO TRACK YOU DOWN FOR A BIT PART IN HIS "RETURNING HERO"!

I MOVED LIKE A FIGURE IN A DREAM AS ROY BROUGHT ME TO THE SET OF "RETURNING HERO" NOT DARING TO BREATHE, LEST I WAKE UP... WHILE THEY COSTUMED ME AND MADE ME UP.

YOU'RE A FRENCH GIRL, APRIL! WHEN YOU GIVE THE AMERICAN HERO FLOWERS AND HE KISSES YOU-- YOU GIVE YOUR HEART, TOO- KNOWING THIS IS THE FIRST- AND LAST TIME - YOU WILL EVER SEE EACH OTHER!

THE STAR IN THE CAR, I GAVE MY FLOWERS TO, HAD MADE THE HEARTS OF WOMEN ALL OVER THE WORLD FLUTTER LIKE CAPTIVE BIRDS--

BUT WHEN I ROSE TO MEET HIS LIPS, IT WAS ROY TO WHOM I GAVE MY AGONIZED HEART

WHEN MY TINY SCENE WAS OVER, AND THE COMPANY MOVED TO THE NEXT SET- I HAUNTED THE DESERTED STAGE UNTIL ROY HELD ME BY THE SHOULDERS

YOU WERE WONDERFUL, APRIL! YOU'VE CLIMBED ONE RUNG ON THE LADDER TO THE STAR! BUT THERE ARE MILLIONS OF THEM! WITH HEARTBREAK ON EVERY RUNG! WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK HOME - BEFORE YOU'RE TRAPPED?

I WOULD QUICKLY CONFESS TO ROY BUT IT HAD ALREADY TRAPPED MY HEART WITHOUT ANY

I'M GOING TO STAY- UNTIL I BECOME A STAR NO MATTER WHAT OR HOW LONG IT TAKES!

FOLLOW THE HEARTRENDING STRUGGLES, AND ROMANTIC SURPRISES IN THE LIFE OF STARLET APRIL DAY, IN THE FUTURE ISSUES OF THIS MAGAZINE

END

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